

PC Update

September 2000
Volume 17
Issue 8



Computer Graphics

have come a long way since the simple
bitmap painting programs of five years ago.

Melb PC Directory

Office, Membership, Deliveries

27 Dorcas Street
South Melbourne, VIC. 3205
(9 am – 5 pm) **9699 6222**
Fax: **9699 6499**

Mail

PO Box 283
South Melbourne, VIC. 3205, Australia
office@melbpc.org.au
Tricia Swan
Margaret Greer
Kerry Williams

First Aid (Help) line

(10 am – 3 pm) **9696 9200**

Management Committee

committee@melbpc.org.au

President

George Skarbek
president@melbpc.org.au

Vice-President

Dave Botherway
vice-president@melbpc.org.au

Treasurer

Bill Ford treasurer@melbpc.org.au

Secretary

John Swale secretary@melbpc.org.au

Members

Ray Beatty raybea@melbpc.org.au
Keith Beresford keith@melbpc.org.au
Margaret Brown mbrown@melbpc.org.au
Brian Horman bhor@melbpc.org.au
Noel Peters noelp@melbpc.org.au
Barry Martin barrymar@melbpc.org.au
John Morris morris@melbpc.org.au

Online Services

Melb PC BBS

(4 lines, up to 28.8 kbps) **9699 6611**

Internet Service Up to 120 mins total, per day:

60 lines, max 56 kbps (V.90) **8626 5000**
120 lines, max 56 kbps (K56flex) **9934 9400**
120 lines, 9.6 kbps upwards **9697 4000**

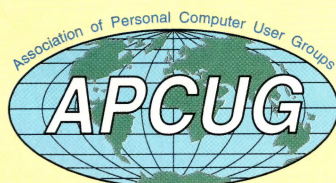
Intranet Service

26 lines, 30/10 mins, extra if lines free,
max 33.6 kbps **9690 5644**

Home Page

<http://www.melbpc.org.au/>

Member



PC Update

Features

PDFs — Simplifying the Publishing Process, <i>Stephen Davey</i>	7
Layers with PaintShop Pro 5, <i>John Swann</i>	13
Electronic Health Records — Your Health Online? <i>Monika Merkes</i>	18
Internet Newsgroups on the BBS, <i>Michael Marquart</i>	20
The Retiree, <i>Albert Vanzet</i>	26
Internet Mailbox Problems, <i>Stan Johnstone</i>	28
Do Your Friend a Big Favour, <i>Ray Beatty</i>	37
Downloading Files/Programs from the Internet, <i>Stan Johnstone</i>	38
The Lagrange Points Part 3, <i>Ken Holmes</i>	44
RoboCup Comes to Melbourne, <i>Major Keary</i>	49
A Little Polemic, <i>Major Keary</i>	50

Reviews

Macromedia Director Shockwave Studio Version 8, <i>Mike Rule</i>	10
For The Bookshelf, <i>Major Keary</i>	46
• Fireworks Bible	46
• Robots for Kids	49

Group Business

Acknowledgments	62
Advertisers Index	63
Auditor's Report	23
Dial Help Rules	62
Editorial, <i>Ash Nallawalla</i>	5
Financial Report for Year Ended 30 June 2000, <i>Bill Ford</i>	22
Forthcoming Events	16
Internet Access Application Form	51
Letters to the Editor	61
Members Free Ads Rules	62
Membership Application Form	35
Member Survey — 2000, <i>Ash Nallawalla</i>	31
Monthly Meeting Map	63
Monthly Meeting Topic for September 2000	63
Nomination Form (Committee)	25
Notice of AGM, <i>John Swale</i>	24
PC (President's Comments), <i>George Skarbek</i>	4
PC Update Themes and Deadlines for 2000	62
Random Access, <i>John Swale</i>	60
SIG Meeting Reports	53
Shareware Library Update, <i>Glen Webster</i>	58
Shareware Order Form	36
Special Interest Group Schedule, <i>Dave Botherway</i>	14
Training Information Box	43
Training Order Form	36
Training Schedule — September and October 2000, <i>Ian Rankin</i>	42
Why You Should Join Melbourne PC User Group	30

PC Update Directory

Home Page

<http://www.melbpc.org.au/pcupdate/>

Editor and Reviews Editor

Ash Nallawalla editor@melbpc.org.au

Book Reviews Editor

Major Keary majkeary@netspace.net.au

PC Update Online

Stan Johnstone online@melbpc.org.au

Features Editor and Production Manager

Gary Taig 9700 1566
prod-mgr@melbpc.org.au

Advertising Enquiries

pcupdate@lets-advertise.com

September Cover

Cover Design and Artwork: *John Swann, Graphics SIG*

Copyright Notice

Copyright © 2000, Melbourne PC User Group Inc and individual authors. Except where otherwise stated, all material is the copyright of the author. Material in this magazine may be copied by nonprofit PC user groups without fee provided that there is no restriction published with the article, the copies are not used for commercial advantage, and the origins of the material and this permission to copy are acknowledged in the reprinted item.

Liability Disclaimer

Material published in this magazine represents the opinions of the authors, and does not carry any endorsement by the committee or the editor. We do not test programs or tips that are published here, so use them at your own risk. Problems or follow-up queries should be sent to the original author. Melbourne PC User Group Inc. has no official connection with any public or commercial organisation and does not provide product recommendations. Names of commercial products mentioned in this magazine are registered names or trademarks of their owners.

Contributions

All authors must lodge a completed submission form (available on our Web page) that confirms that the article is previously unpublished (if previously published, the author must have the right to authorise republishing), and original, save for any content which is properly credited, and that Melbourne PC User Group Incorporated may publish the article on one or more occasions on paper, the Internet or otherwise, edit the article and/or permit republication by non-profit organisations. These are PC Update's standard terms of publication. Before starting a review or article, write to the editor, in case someone else has beaten you to it. Note, anonymous submissions are not accepted. Please read the style guide on our Web site. Authors must present a balanced view of the subject matter, based on a reasonable period of use — if the article is overly critical they should submit a copy to the distributor or manufacturer for comment. Copies of such correspondence should accompany the submission.

Submissions

E-mail your articles, reports, reviews, and free ads to pcupdate@melbpc.org.au as file attachments. They can be Word files, plain, unformatted (ASCII) text files or plain unformatted (ASCII) text files bundled in a ZIP file with accompanying graphics. Do not pack them inside self-extracting EXE files. Submissions can also be sent by post on a virus-free diskette, which will not be returned, to the Group's PO Box.

Editing

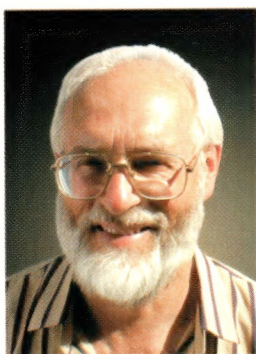
All articles are edited for style, spelling, grammar and length. Articles that may not be edited or that do not meet our standards, will be rejected.

Graphics

Supply graphics in original format in Corel or PageMaker files, or as TIFF, PCX, JPEG, EPS or WMF images. Screen shots should be RGB, as captured, ie. with resolution and colour unaltered. Save as TIFF, JPEG or PCX. Do not supply GIF files.

Rejections

Contact the editor if your submission is not published within four issues. Self-extracting files are rejected without notification. Other rejections are advised by phone or in writing.



PC (President's Comments)

*George Skarbek
President*

PC Update Online

Do you ever have to search through back issues of *PC Update* to find a certain article? I am sure many do as I get the occasional request "George, I have been looking for an article that you wrote on xxx but I can't find it. Can you e-mail it to me please?"

Well thanks to many hours work by Stan Johnstone, back issues are available online from <http://www.melbpc.org.au/pcupdate/>. There you can search these articles. All issues from 1997 up to the current issue should be available by the time you read this, and the work is continuing.

Bulletin Board (BBS) and Melb PC Newsgroups

The melbpc Internet newsgroups that have been available only to Internet members can now be read by all via the BBS. Currently this is read only and you cannot post articles from the BBS to the newsgroup, but it provides a way for members without Melb PC Internet access to read the local discussions. Thanks to the BBS team for making this possible.

For Melb PC members who have never used the BBS, this is a free service, provided as a part of your membership. You cannot access the BBS by entering the BBS phone number (9699 6611) into your Windows dialler — that will not work. The BBS is not a part of the Internet and uses a totally different protocol to communicate. You access the BBS by using a DOS communications program such as Telix, or from Windows use HyperTerminal. Be aware that your mouse will not work with the BBS as this is a character-based system.

If this is your first time on the BBS you will have to give your name and

membership number and within a few days you will be given full access rights — then you will be able to read the newsgroups. From the Main Menu select M for Message areas and then A for Area change. Type in LOCN, press Enter — you will see a list of available message areas and you will have a short menu to help you. Just type the first letter of the menu item that you wish to pick. In most cases Ctrl+C will stop the current activity.

The BBS can also be used to find and download files such as the MPCISM kit (the Setup disk) that will re-install all your Internet settings should you ever need to format your hard disk and re-install Windows. It is also a good way to test your modem.

Windows 3.x and the Internet

Due to the much greater workload in setting up Internet for users who are still running Windows 3.1 and the limited resources that we have, the Internet team has reluctantly decided that they cannot support Windows 3.x in the future. Consequently from next month we will be unable to assist new users with Windows 3.x who wish to use the members' Internet service.

What Do You Want?

In this issue you will find a member survey. We ask for your comments and ideas on many issues and seek to gather more statistical data about the Group. It is your chance to tell us what you really want, especially with *PC Update*. This is your magazine and we will always strive to find authors to provide the types of articles you would like to read.

If you are interested in a particular topic, then there is a high probability that many other members will also be interested.

Membership Brochure

In order to be able to offer improved services to members, Melb PC must continue to grow. This month Ray Beatty explains why you each have a copy of the new membership brochure. Read Ray's article on page 37.

Next Monthly Meeting

On 6 September at Parkville there will be presentations on alternate operating systems and uninterruptible power supplies. As well Microsoft will be presenting Web design with FrontPage 2000. You will see our new \$12,000, 2000 ANSI Lumens data projector in action.

Again there is also Random Access (your chance to ask the experts), the usual giveaways and raffle with several thousand dollars of prizes being raffled, shareware library sales and more.

Don't forget, if you sent in an entry for the USB Camera Competition (August *PC Update*), be at the meeting on 6 September when it is drawn for the chance to win the bonus prize.

For a map of how to find the Pharmacy College see page 62. You can also catch number 19 tram in Elizabeth Street and get off at tram stop 16, Walker Street — right opposite Optus Oval. Hope to see you there.



Ash Nallawalla

Newer members may not have heard of our largely dormant employment networking group. It has its own Web page and mailing list, which you will find at <http://melbpcnet.listbot.com>. If you are looking for work and/or wish to discuss your experiences with others, you will find a sign-up form for the mailing list.

One reason the networking group is largely dormant is because I started it, following an article in *PC Update* in which I detailed my 15-month period of underemployment or unemployment. I was already employed when I started the networking group and needed someone else to take responsibility for it. Some others in that group also found work and were unavailable to take over. You can read the full article online at <http://www.melbpc.org.au/pcupdate/> and look up the November 1998 issue, but I will repeat four paragraphs below:

Get to know how well your company is doing. Ask yourself how long could you survive financially if you lost your job without warning. What type of package can you expect from your employer? Only you can answer those questions and make allowances for a financial buffer.

I had misread the warning signs because our Australian subsidiary had been doing well, compared to others. It did not occur to me that we would be downsized to save the distant parent company. Some weeks after I left, four others were retrenched, without the benefit of the "package" that I received. Over the past months, I have noticed this happening to some other multinational IT companies too.

If your employer's future looks bleak, would you be better off lending your shoulder to the wheel, perhaps helping to save your own job, or look for a new employer?

I recommend finding a new job. For inexplicable reasons, you have more credibility when you apply while you are employed than when you are not. Once you are unemployed, the matter of redundancy is irrelevant to your prospective employer, but the state of unemployment reflects on your ability to be employed.

I have received a few enquiries about our networking group over the months and sometimes the group receives notification of job vacancies, which are e-mailed to the mailing list. I am unable to give much time to this worthy project because my job takes me out of the city or country at a day's notice. We need a person who has some time to resuscitate the project and take it to new heights. If you are interested, please sign up for the mailing list and identify yourself. Perhaps you can write an article about job opportunities for our members?

The Editors

I would like to explain how this magazine is structured, as there is some understandable confusion, judging from some letters that are sent to us. The group is the publisher. I am the honorary Editor but I only look after this page and product reviews. Major Keary is the honorary Book Reviews Editor. He looks after book reviews and writes some feature articles. Stan Johnstone maintains our online edition.

Gary Taig is the Features Editor and he is the Producer under a contractual arrangement; he determines the overall content. Gary is also the Production Manager and looks after every aspect of production including advertising, typesetting, printing and delivery.

Please use the address pcupdate@melbpc.org.au to write to Gary and me; this includes all submissions for publication. We cannot emphasise enough that we need more writers, so if you are interested, please contact us. A style guide is available on the *PC Update* Web page, as is an author release form.

The Survey

To find out your needs, we have devised a single, shorter online survey for you this year. A printed copy (page 31) is also enclosed for members who don't have Internet access or don't trust the anonymity of our Internet service. Please go to <http://www.melbpc.org.au/surveys/> and complete the survey. The results will be published later this year. □



Head Office: 5 Silver Grove, Nunawading, Vic 3131
Retail stores: 88 South Parade, Blackburn, Vic 3130
 53 Morton Street, Clayton, Vic 3168
 311 Sydney Road, Coburg, Vic 3058
 305 Latrobe Street, Melbourne, Vic 3000

Ph:(03)9877-7071 Fax:(03)9877-7081
 Ph:(03)9877-7130 Fax:(03)9877-7382
 Ph:(03)9562-9501 Fax:(03)9562-9261
 Ph:(03)9383-7511 Fax:(03)9383-7896
 Ph:(03)9602-3499 Fax:(03)9642-8551

Internet web address: www.tecs.com.au

Prices and specifications subject to change without notice. E. &OE.



GST Benefits!



Yes, our computers are approximately 10% cheaper than before the introduction of the GST. For computers, GST stands for Great Savings Tax! If you have been holding off, now is the time to buy when the dust has settled from the change over to the new tax system. Any accounting software you may wish to run would hopefully have had all the "bugs" ironed out by now!

- Intel Pentium III 550 CPU
- Gigabyte 6VXE7+ motherboard
- Supports 66/100/133MHz FSB
- Supports Ultra ATA66 IDE
- Built-in 2 X USB ports
- 64M 133MHz SDRAM
- 20G ATA66 IDE HDD
- 1.44M floppy drive
- 8M ATI Rage IIc AGP card
- 15" Philips monitor
- 48X IDE CD-ROM drive
- 16-bit sound card
- pair of Turando 240W PMPO speakers
- Microsoft mouse & pad
- Silitek 104 keyboard
- Netcomm V90 internal fax/modem
- VET anti-virus software
- Windows 98 Second Edition
- Choice of desk-top or midi-tower case

- **Free delivery & setup*!**
- **2 year parts & unlimited labour warranty!**
- **3 year manufacturer's on-site warranty on Philips monitor!**

* - Limited to Melbourne metro areas only.



Picture for illustrative purpose only.
Actual units will vary.

\$1799

With huge 20G HDD!

MEMORY

16M 72pin EDO	\$100
32M 72pin EDO	\$145
32M 100MHz SDRAM	\$95
64M 100MHz SDRAM	\$165
64M 133MHz SDRAM	\$170
128M 100MHz SDRAM	\$330
128M 133MHz SDRAM	\$340
256M 100MHz SDRAM	\$665
256M 133MHz SDRAM	\$755

HARD DRIVES

10.2G Seagate	\$170
13G Seagate	\$225
15G IBM 7200RPM	\$239
20G Seagate	\$245
20G IBM 7200RPM	\$339
30G Western Digital	\$329
30G Maxtor 7200RPM	\$415
40G Maxtor	\$459

Miscellaneous

1.44M FDD	\$27
LS120 IDE internal	\$145
4M AGP video card	\$50
8M AGP video card	\$65
15" Philips monitor	\$285
17" Philips monitor	\$445
48X IDE CD-ROM	\$85
16-bit sound card	\$27
Netcomm int. Fax/mdm	\$55
104 keyboard	\$14

AcerScan 340P flatbed scanner



Excellent entry level scanner for creating impressive new imaged documents. Incorporates Advanced Colour Enhancement technology, 48 bit and 281 trillion colours provides true-to-life pictures.

Specifications:

Optical Resolution 300 x 600 dpi
 Maximum Resolution 9600 x 9600 dpi
 Interface Parallel
 Software included

MiraScan TWAIN-compliant driver,
 Ulead Photo Express, ABBYY OCR,
 Presto! Pagemanager.

\$115



**32X / 10X / 4X
SONY CD-RW**



This is a complete kit including cables, mounting hardware, Users Manual, Adaptec Easy CD Creator and CD Direct, plus 10 blank CD-R and 2 blank CD-RW media. Everything you need to get you up and running. Easy to install IDE interface.

Bonus Offer!

\$569

For a limited time, we are giving away ...
EXTRA 10 CD-R MEDIA
 with this kit!



PC/TV Genie Computer to Video converter

Features:

- True Plug & Play, no software drivers required.
- Compatible with all PC's.
- True colour quality.
- Full screen Overscan/Underscan.
- Remote controller.



\$185

PCI to USB host adaptor

Features:

- Provides two downstream ports with Root Hub function.
- Ideal for older computers without USB.
- Supports Win95b OSR2.1 or Win98.



\$36

Surecom Internet Mini-Hub

Features:

- Allows multiple users to access the Internet through one ISP account.
- 6 LAN ports and two WAN ports for double bandwidth access.
- Firewall capability by packet filtering.
- Build your own VPN (Virtual Private Network).
- Built-in DHCP, BOOTP server.
- Ideal for small business or home use.
- Fully compatible with all platforms (Windows NT, Windows 95, Windows 98, Unix, OS/2).

\$399

Promise FastTrak66 IDE RAID controller



What is an IDE RAID controller?

Using multiple drives, RAID array can provide high performance and/or reliability to a desk-top or server machine. This RAID adaptor supports striping, mirroring, and striping/mirroring operations as defined in the RAID 0, 1, and 0/1 levels respectively. With striping operation, drives can read and write in parallel to increase performance, while mirroring offers increase in fault tolerance by creating complete backup of your files.

Features:

- Co-exists with your on board IDE controller.
- Up to 8 drive array using two controller cards.
- Windows 95/98/NT compatible.
- Ultra ATA66 compliant.
- PCI V2.1 compliant.

\$189

Upgrade Specials!

Give your computer a new lease on life by upgrading!*

Offer 1:

- AMD K6-2-500
- Gigabyte ALI chipset AT motherboard
- 32M SDRAM
- 4M AGP video card

\$485

Offer 2:

- Intel Celeron 566
- Gigabyte GA-6VA7+ AT motherboard
- 64M PC100 SDRAM
- 8M S3 Trio 3D/2X AGP video card

\$699

* - Subject to suitability. **Prices include installation!!**

PDFs — Simplifying the Publishing Process

Stephen Davey

In the world of printing and publishing, constant change is the “normal” climate, particularly in the pre-press area.

The process of transferring computer graphics files from your computer to the printing press has been a somewhat complicated stream of processes, each fraught with difficulties and potential problems.

While improvements in technology have helped reduce the number of intermediate steps, many difficulties can still arise with missing fonts, incompatible file formats, and image resolution problems.

For many years the industry has been screaming out for a graphics arts file format that solves all the issues

- platform independent (ie. PC, MAC, UNIX)
- device independent (ie. will print at the best quality possible on a particular device)
- embedded fonts (ie. no requirement for the output device to have the font)
- single file format (ie. all components included. No separate or external parts such as fonts or images required)
- high quality output supporting various colour models (ie CMYK, PMS, RGB)

Adobe Acrobat

Almost by accident a few years ago, Adobe went a long way towards solving the problem when it introduced the “Acrobat” tools and the “Portable Document Format” – PDF. Originally Adobe introduced Acrobat as a tool to create PDFs so that typical office documents created in an application

on the PC could be easily be viewed on a MAC (and vica-versa).

In a cunning marketing ploy (since used by Microsoft and Netscape with their browsers), Adobe gave away the Acrobat Reader program free so that anyone could read/view and print PDF documents. If you wanted to create PDFs, the other “half” of the program (Acrobat Distiller) had to be purchased.

The original PDF format was a magnificent format, in that it was truly cross-platform and the viewer did not need to have the same fonts as the creator of the document. The PDF could be created so that all the fonts required were either actually embedded, or otherwise very good font substitution was employed to ensure the document looked the same on all platforms.

In its default setup, the first version of Distiller created PDFs that were very small because any included graphics were downsampled to 72 dpi. While many users were unaware that high resolution PDFs could be created, few users every imagined of what use a high resolution PDF could be.

High Quality Publishing

Today, the majority of professional graphic designers and publishers use either PageMaker, InDesign or Quark Express to create documents for high quality publishing. The designer must provide the film or plate bureau not only the particular application file, but also all the fonts and individual graphic files (photographs, logos etc). This can amount to many, many files, adding up to sometimes hundreds of megabytes. Adobe’s PDFs presented a way of firstly reducing the number of files to one, and reduce the megabytes.

Limitations

While the first versions of PDFs very successfully provided solutions for transferring office documents, some limitations with the format meant that it was not suitable for high end publishing.

Firstly, the CMYK colour space and colour separations were not easily supported and secondly most imagesetting RIPs could only handle “Postscript” files. As PDF files were created by “distilling” a postscript file, there seemed little point in creating a postscript file, converting it to PDF, then converting it back to postscript.

Then Along Came 4!

Not long after the original release Adobe realised that PDFs could have a very useful future as a publishing media and set out to “re-invent” PDF for the publishing industry. With the recent release of Acrobat 4 (PDF version 1.3) most of the format’s early limitations have been removed/resolved.

Postscript level 3 imagesetter RIPs can now process PDF files directly, and in-rip separations handle colour separation of PDFs very well. Adobe has also done a good job in convincing other software and hardware vendors of the future of PDF. As a result, there are many inexpensive third party applications, plug-ins or specially designed PDF workflow systems that have meant widespread acceptance of PDFs in the publishing industry.

There is now a variety of specialised imposition, trapping and cataloguing plugins that enable easy processing of PDF files at considerably lower cost than traditional methods.

PDF files are becoming (more and more) a standard in the publishing industry. In fact moves are already well in place for PDF to become the standard file format for press and magazines in Australia by as early as 2001 (see <http://www.3dap.com.au>).

Acrobat Now

Acrobat consists of two main parts, firstly Acrobat Reader (available free from www.adobe.com), and secondly Acrobat 4, made up of a more advanced version of the free reader and Distiller which is the part that allows you to create PDF (version 1.3) files from either postscript or EPS files.

Using different "Job Option" files it is possible to create a number of different types of PDF files for specific purposes.

- Low resolution (say 72 dpi) PDFs with RGB (smaller than CMYK) images. These PDFs are very small compared with the raw application file or postscript files and very useful for e-mailing proofs of jobs to clients, or putting documents on the web.
- Medium resolution (say 120 dpi) PDFs with RGB for producing reasonable quality colour laser prints.
- High resolution (200-300 dpi) PDFs with CMYK images for publishing purposes.

Creating High Quality PDFs

There are several ways to convert your application file (PageMaker, Quark, CorelDraw, Illustrator etc) to PDF files.

The first two involve printing from your application to either of the two printer drivers (PDF Writer, Acrobat Distiller Driver) installed when Acrobat is installed.

The PDF Writer is **not** a suitable driver to use if you need to create high quality PDFs. The PDF Writer automatically downsamples images to 72 dpi (far too low) and uses only the screen header of any EPS files included.

Using the Acrobat Distiller Driver automatically creates a postscript file in the background and then distils it in one operation. This method produces good results but does not give you much control of the process.

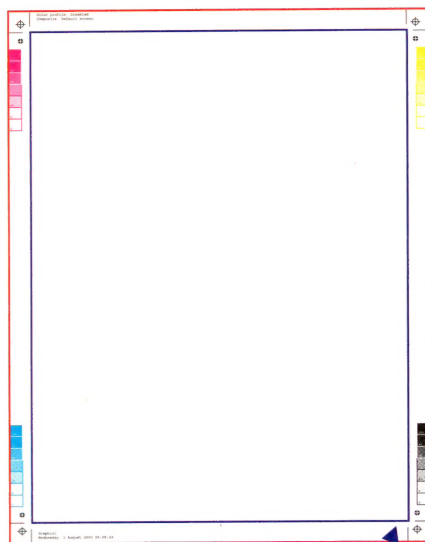
Some applications allow you to "Export" the job as a PDF. Generally these export facilities also do not give you complete control over all the settings.

By far the best way to create a PDF is to create a postscript print file from the application and then distil that file into a PDF using the appropriate job option.

Creating Postscript Print Files

The start of a good PDF file is a good Postscript file and the best start is to install the Adobe Postscript Printer Driver (available free from <http://www.adobe.com>).

If the application you are printing from uses PPD files, select the Acrobat Distiller PPD. In most cases the bureau or publication will require trim marks and registration marks, so make sure these are selected. Ensure that the "paper" size chosen is large enough to include your complete job plus the trim/registration marks (eg. print an A4 page to A4 Extra).



Document or Job page size

Printer page size --
large enough to include job page
plus trim and registration marks

Don't select colour separations or any items such as negative or mirror image etc. All these options are best done on the imagesetting end. Also ensure that the images print at their full resolution (ie. don't let the application optimise or downsample, Acrobat will do a better job).

The resulting postscript file (which may be considerably larger than the application file) can then be distilled into a PDF using Acrobat Distiller.

Setting Distiller's Job Option for High Quality PDFs

General Settings

• Format

Normally, unless you have difficulty in transferring files, do not select ASCII as this will result in a larger file.

• Compatibility

Unless you know that the bureau/publication can accept Acrobat 4 files, set the file compatibility to Acrobat 3.

• Optimise

Always "Optimise". While this slightly increases the time it takes to distil a file, the resulting PDF is very well organised and will usually be processed through a RIP very efficiently. Since much of the important font and other information is moved to the front of the file, in the unlikely event of a PDF failing to RIP, they normally fail very early in the ripping process — thus saving valuable time.

• Thumbnails

Choose whether you want "Thumbnails" to be generated. Thumbnails are tiny images of each page, which in a multi page document, make it easy to navigate to a particular page. Adding thumbnails will slightly increase the size of the final PDF.

• Resolution

Set the resolution to at least 2400 (or higher if you know the exact resolution of the image setting by which the file will be processed). This setting affects only vector EPS files, ie. to determine the number of steps for a blend or fade. It has no effect of any bitmaps included in the file (see compression settings).

Compression

• Colour and Greyscale images

(While Acrobat has separate sections for Colour and Greyscale images, normally you should treat both types of bitmaps in the same way.)

Part of the secret of PDFs is that bitmap images are processed so that no extra unnecessary information is included in

the file. This results in a file that is the smallest possible for the given purpose. For this reason the Compression settings are some of the most important.

Choose “Bicubic” rather than “Average” downsampling. “Average” simply throws out (for example) every second pixel. “Bicubic”, on the other hand, looks at a small group of pixels and keeps those that best represent what was there originally.

Many “experts” say that the dpi (dots per inch) should be twice that of the lpi (lines per inch) of the “Screen Ruling” used for the publication. PC Update, for instance, is printed using 150 lpi, so the dpi would be 300. However, I believe this is overkill. After conducting many test and real examples over the years I know that setting the dpi to 1.5 times the lpi will give perfect results. In fact, in emergency situations where you are trying to dramatically reduce the file size, setting the dpi to the same as the lpi will still give you acceptable results. (If anyone ever tells you that you must scan or downsample at/to 300 dpi, ask them if they have actually conducted any tests at lower resolutions to determine the difference.)

With regard to compression, always use “ZIP-8 bit” as this is a loss-less process. “JPEG” on the other hand removes some information and may adversely affect image quality.

For monochrome images set the dpi to about 8 times the lpi, the compression as “CCITT Group 4” and make sure Text and Line art compression is on.

Fonts

Select “Embedded All Fonts” and “Subset All Embedded Fonts Below 100%”

In order that your PDF file will print out at the “other” end exactly as intended it is vital that all the fonts are not only embedded but also “subset”. If, for example, the font “FuturaBold” is embedded in a PDF, and the file is printed out to a imagesetter that already has a “FuturaBold” installed, the font installed in the imagesetter will be used rather than the font embedded in the PDF. Whilst they might have the same names the two fonts could be and often

are slightly different. “Subsetting” embeds the font but gives it a unique name, meaning that the imagesetter will never have the font installed and will use the font embedded in the PDF.

Colour

Under the “conversion” settings select only the “leave colour unchanged” option. All other “conversion” and “Assumed Profile” options should be left unchecked.

In the “Option” section, select all the options **except** “Preserve Halftone Information”. This would be used only in unique circumstances where the halftone details set in the file are to override the halftone setup in the RIP (in most cases the bureau imagesetter operators are better able to determine the correct halftone screen ruling, angles and dot shape. Leave it to them.)

Normally the PDF file will want to preserve or keep the “Overprint”, “Under Colour Removal”, “Black Generation” and “Transfer Function” already existing in components within your job, so all these options should be selected.

“Overprinting” refers to what happens when one colour is laid over the top of another — does it “knockout” a hole in the background colour, or does it “Overprint” or cover the colour underneath? In most cases light colours need to knock a hole in darker colours so their colour value does not change. Very dark colours, in particular black, should overprint any lighter colour underneath so as to make the registration of the colours easier on the press.



Dark text set to print over lighter background.

Light text set to knock a hole in darker background.

“Under Colour Removal” and “Black Generation” really are the topic of another complete article, but for the moment, trust me — just preserve it!

Advanced

The settings in this area can be very specific to particular RIPs and they highlight one of the great things about Acrobat 4. The service bureau or film house can do all the hard work to find out exactly which settings suit their equipment and all you have to do is install and select the job-option file they supply.

However, there are two items here that may be useful to users who need to distil EPS files. As well as being able to distil postscript print files Acrobat Distiller can distil EPS files. This can be extremely useful when you have an EPS file that is causing problems in either an application or RIP, often, distilling the EPS file into a PDF and then exporting it back out as an EPS from Acrobat, can solve the problem.

If you want to distil an EPS, then the “Default Page Size” dictates the size of the final PDF. A postscript print file contains information about the page size of a job, however an EPS file does not, so Distiller needs to be “told” what size to make the PDF.

If you need to distil EPS files and need the PDF file to be made the exact size of the EPS, then select “Process DSC Comments” and “Resize Page and Centre Artwork for EPS files”.

Some Important Issues

Trial and more trial is probably one of the most important techniques. Spending time making a few (small) trial PDFs in consultation with your bureau, will ensure that your PDFs work as intended.

Common mistakes are:

- Using RGB instead of CMYK images.
- Neglecting to add trim marks and registration bullets.
- Making the printer pages size too small to include the actual page size plus trims.
- Using True Type fonts instead of Postscript fonts. □

Macromedia Director Shockwave Studio Version 8.0

Mike Rule

Back in 1993, I landed a consulting job to help a University with the design and development of its first commercial instructional multimedia project. Two surprises awaited me on site. Firstly, it was an Apple shop and I had to learn to drive a Macintosh and secondly, they were developing the course using a program called Director.

A few weeks later I had gained a lot of respect for the multimedia capabilities of the Mac and I was in love with Director. Since that time I have developed at least two or three commercial multimedia projects each year in Director and my affection for the product has not lessened. This love affair deepened with version 4 and the first native Windows implementation.

Director is, of course, a multimedia authoring system. It enables the author to assemble media elements including digital video, digital audio, graphics and text into a program which can be compiled into either an executable projector or a shockwave movie which can be delivered over the web. In my case, I use it to develop computer based training courses, instructional multimedia, promotional material and other presentations.

For as long as I have known it, Director has used a film metaphor. The final product is a movie which is played on the stage (Figure 1). The various components used to build the movie are actors which are assembled in the cast. When, where and how the actors appear on the stage is controlled by the score. It all sounds a bit twee but it actually works very well in practice.

When an actor is placed in the score it becomes a sprite. The score (Figure 2) is organised into a grid which consists of frames vertically and channels horizontally. The frames show what is happening on the stage at a particular point in time. The playback head moves horizontally across the score when a movie is played and the actors in each frame are displayed on the stage when the playback head is in that frame.

The rate at which the playback head moves through the score is called the tempo and is measured in frames per second. You can set tempos at up to 999 frames per second and, if you have access to a Cray Supercomputer, you may achieve a tempo approaching that limit. Meanwhile 30 to 60 frames per second is a more practical tempo for the normal PC.

One of the main strengths of Director is that it can be used at two levels. It contains a powerful scripting language called Lingo but, as Bernadette Houghton found in her review of Director 7 (PC Update, April 2000), it is possible to build quite complex and sophisticated movies without any programming at all.

It was not always this easy but Macromedia implemented two very sensible decisions in versions 5 and 6 respectively. Firstly they opened up the architecture of the program so that third-party developers could create plug-in programs called Xtras which increase the functionality of the product. Secondly, they extended Lingo and changed it from a straight linear language to a more object-oriented programming (OOP) model. This in turn enabled programmers to build self-contained code modules called behaviours.

Xtras give you the sexy stuff but it was behaviours that dramatically increased the range of things that developers can do without getting into the nitty-gritty

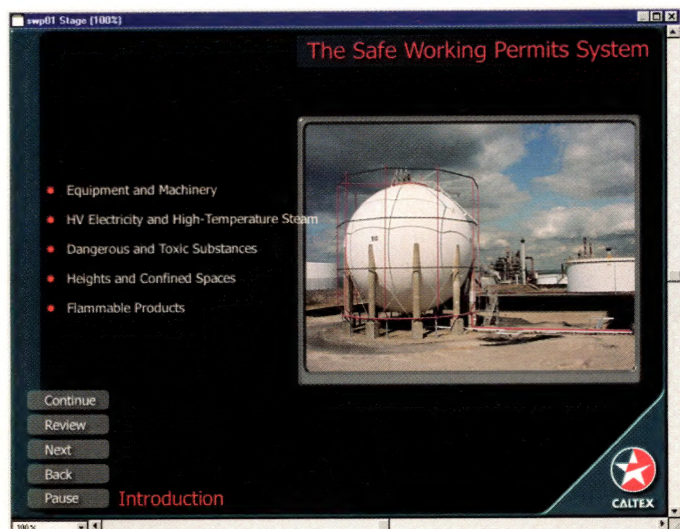


Figure 1. The Director Stage

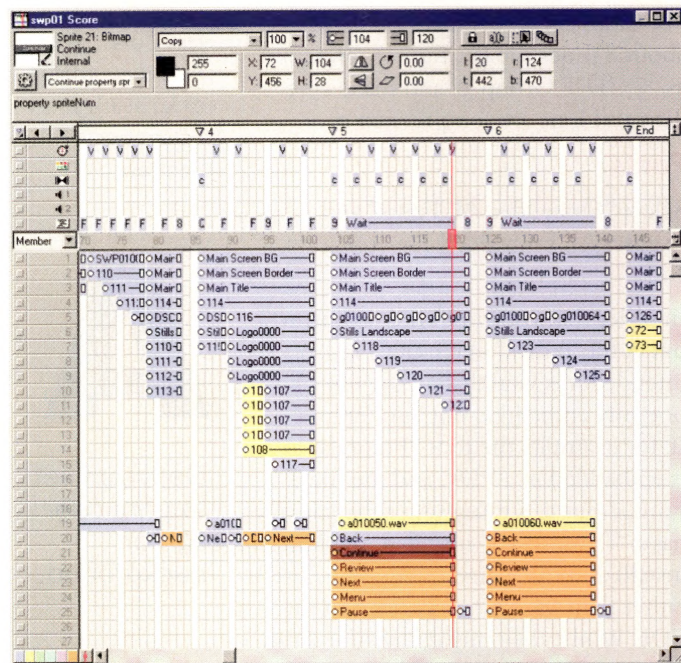


Figure 2. The Director Score

of Lingo programming. It is interactivity that distinguishes good multimedia and Director now comes with a wide range of pre-packaged behaviours that the developer can use to incorporate everything from simple 'wait-here-until-the-user-clicks-this-button' actions to quite sophisticated and complex interactions.

Even experienced Lingo programmers are not above *nicking* the code out of a good behaviour and adapting it to their own ends. Not that I would ever do anything like that you understand. I always write my own behaviours from the ground up, but I have heard of it being done in the less ethical sectors of the developer community. Enough of this wandering down memory lane. Let's take a look at what they have done to my old friend in version 8.

Lockable Sprites

Well, colour me happy. I don't know how many times in the past I have been doing pre-delivery testing and noticed a slight flicker on the screen which, after much subsequent searching, turned out to be a background graphic or heading that has been accidentally moved a few pixels away from where it ought to be for a few frames.

Not any more. Once you have located sprites exactly where you want them on the stage, you can right-click on them, select Lock Sprite and they are there to stay. Sprites cannot be modified in any way after they have been locked. Locking also prevents behaviours accidentally being attached to a sprite which can produce some bizarre (and hard-to-find) effects during testing.

Zoomable Stage and Guides

Placing graphics or other elements at precise locations on the stage has been another minor annoyance over the years. We all developed techniques such as using ghost ink temporarily when building up overlay bitmap sequences and using the Sprite Properties dialogue box to manually locate sprites, but it was a pain.

Director introduced snap-to grids with version 6 but they were fairly clunky when compared to an application like Photoshop with its ability to zoom in on an area of the screen and place guides to easily and accurately position screen elements.

Macromedia have finally given us guides and the ability to zoom in on the stage. While not in the class of Photoshop, they are a giant leap forward. The stage can be zoomed from 12% to 800% using either the drop-down selection box at the bottom left of the stage or by using the new Magnifying Glass tool in the Tools Palette. The Magnifying Glass is the most useful of these methods. Clicking on the stage zooms into the area under the tool one step with each successive click. Steps are at 200%, 400% and 800%. Double-clicking on the Magnifying Glass in the Tools Palette returns the stage to 100%.

The Property Inspector

Another giant leap forward. Everything involved in the construction of a Director movie has properties. For example, a bitmap has size and position, the ink that has been applied, its foreground and background colours, its transparency value and a number of other properties.

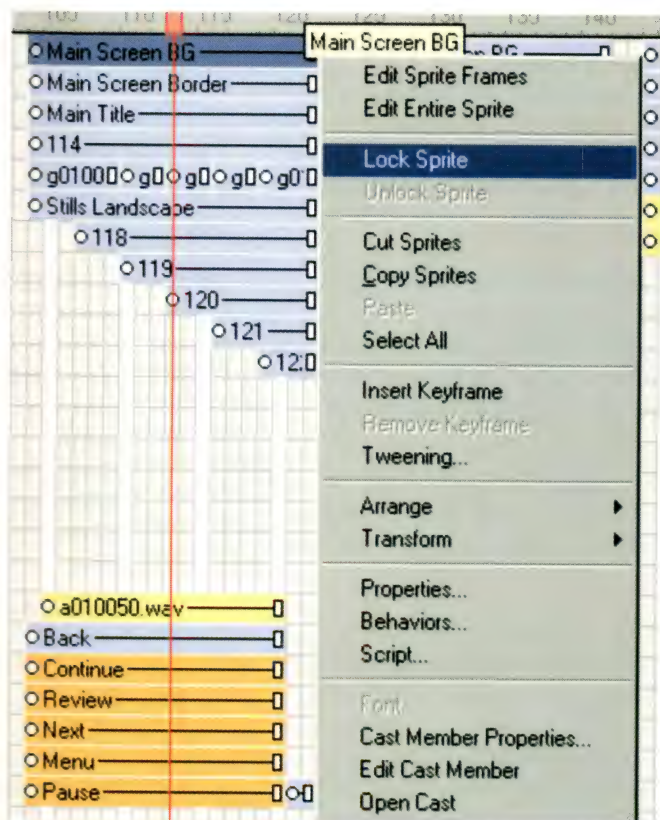


Figure 3. Locking a Sprite in the Score.

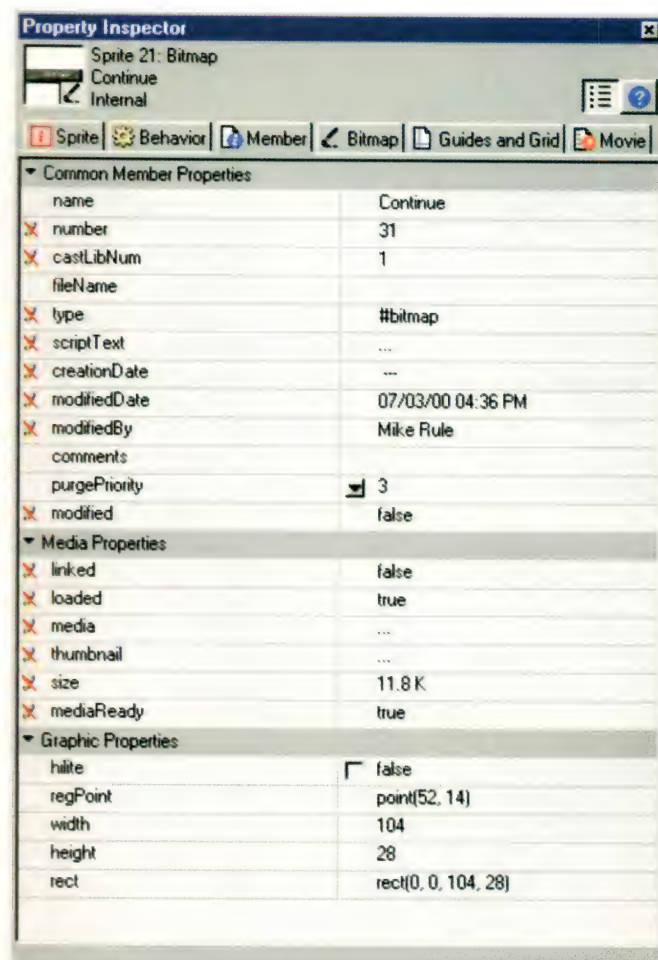


Figure 4. The Property Inspector in List View.

You could access and modify these properties in previous versions through three or four different dialogue boxes. Macromedia have brought them all together in version 8 in the Property Inspector and, best of all, it includes a list view. Everything that you could possibly want to know about an actor is now immediately available in the Property Inspector.

Cast Window

Director has always had a cast window where the actors used in a movie are stored but this has been much improved in version 8 with a list view and the ability to add comments. I use a numerical file naming system (to dissuade users from playing around too much with asset files) and comments associated with each cast member will be very useful in managing project assets inside Director. I also like the fact that you can now sort cast members by name, cast number, attached scripts, type, modification date and comments.

Bitmap Compression

This will please web developers. You can now use JPEG compression on bitmap cast members in a Shockwave movie. This means smaller file sizes and consequently less time required to download Shockwave files from the server. Bitmaps can be optimised individually or at the movie level and you can preview the JPEG images at various compression levels.

Other new features that will be of interest to web developers are the Publish command which lets you create your Shockwave movie in a HTML template so that you can preview the movie in a browser and Scalable Shockwave which expands the movie to fit the browser window.

Multiple Curve Vectors

Yeah. I suppose this will be handy but I would have much preferred the ability to import vector shapes from Photoshop or Illustrator.

Imaging Lingo

I have not had time to fully explore the new imaging commands but I suspect that imaging Lingo will turn out to be something of a sleeper. Inventive programmers will be able to do some pretty spectacular things with bitmaps using the new `getPixel`, `setPixel`, `copyPixel()`, `image()` and `extractAlpha()` commands.

Sound Lingo

Hurrah. We use narration in nearly all of our projects and sound has never been Director's strong suit. So much so, in fact, that I have always used a third-party Xtra to manage audio in our projects. Version 8 includes a number of new sound commands that enable you to queue audio assets in RAM and provide a high level of control over the ways in which those assets are played in the movie. Again, I have only had a preliminary play with these new commands but I am looking forward to seeing what they can do in a real project.

Summary

There is a lot to like about version 8. The additions and improvements are all practical rather than cosmetic and, although I have no way of proving it, I have a strong suspicion that it is more stable than previous versions. Director has always had a predisposition to falling over in a graceless heap at the least provocation (if you have an idle hour or two, read the Director Quirk List on Gretchen McDowell's <http://www.updatestage.com>) but, in two weeks of semi-regular use, I was able to crash it only once.

On the down side, I wonder if Macromedia has not contracted the Microsoft disease or feature bloat. You don't get nothing for nothing and all of these new features and enhancements must cost something in terms of system resources. The only evidence for this that I have is that simple transitions such as wipes, covers and pushes — that were all silky smooth in version 6 — now stutter and jerk across the stage and are far less effective.

Nonetheless, Director still does what it does better than anything else out there. Rumours circulate every year of a new Director-killer application emerging from the weeds but they come and they go and the old lady remains serene at the top of the multimedia heap.

Macromedia Director 8 Shockwave Studio
Available from:
Firmware Design Ph: 1300 369 951
Scholastic Australia Ph: 1800 665 774
RRP: \$2084.50 (Mac and Windows)
Review copy supplied by :
Kinetics Pty Ltd

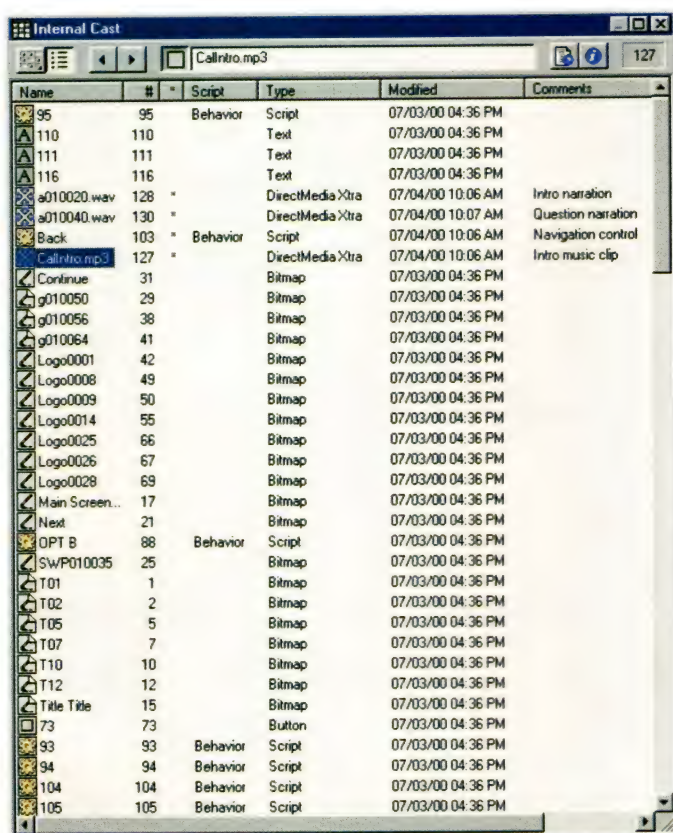


Figure 5. The Cast Window in List View.

Layers with PaintShop Pro 5

John Swann, Graphics SIG.

When you load a graphics file into Jasc Software's PaintShop Pro 5 you can alter the file directly, or create one or more layers keeping the original file intact. The advantage of working in layers allows you the freedom to add or adjust a specific element without altering the entire file. Mistakes can be deleted with subsequent layers being unaffected.

A layer acts like a single clear acetate sheet. It is transparent until you paint pixels on the surface. The opacity can be adjusted and a choice of mode selected which controls how the current layer blends with the layers below. A layer can be brought forward or sent back hiding some of its pixels by the front layer. This is done by changing its stacking order. Simply hold down the left mouse button over the layers name and drag it up or down the stack.

After the graphics file is loaded it will appear in the Layers palette as "Background". It is best to create a new layer using the "Background" so the original file is unchanged; just in case you make a mistake. With the cursor over the Background name in the Layers palette, right mouse click and then click duplicate. A copy of the Background will be created and the layer options will now be active. Only one layer can be edited at a time. You must click the name box to edit that layer even though it is visible. Its position in the stack doesn't matter when editing so there is no need to move the active layer to the top.

The layer options are listed on this page. Load a graphic file and try each feature. Next month I will give a brief explanation of each, with a working sample for you to try. □



Layers Palette Options.

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| A. Add layer | F. Layer group |
| B. Delete layer | G. Opacity |
| C. Layer name | H. Mode |
| D. Visibility | I. Enable mask |
| E. Protect Transparency | J. Link mask |

*Paint Shop Pro 5, Jasc Software, Inc.

If you want to know more about a *layer palette come along to our "Graphics Sig" meeting held every 3rd Monday at 7.30pm at the Melbourne PC club rooms at 27 Dorcas street, South Melbourne. (enter via the back door.)

www.geocities.com/graphics_sig

Special Interest Group Meetings

SIG Coordinator, Dave Botherway

Enhance your computing knowledge and widen your circle of friends who have similar interests and occasionally, similar problems to solve. Melb PC membership entitles you to attend as many SIGs as you wish.

Access (Database)

access-sig@melbpc.org.au

2nd Monday

6.30 – 8.30 pm

Ian Daniels

9802 0540 AH

Assembly & Other Languages

alt-sig@melbpc.org.au

<http://www.melbpc.org.au/sig/alt>

1st Thursday

7.00 – 10.30 pm

Melb PC SIG Room

Felix Hofmann

0408 023 423 BH

9523 5400 AH

Don McKenzie

9521 3060 BH

This is a technical programming SIG not confined to specific computer languages. Bring your algorithms, your code and your questions.

Ballarat

ball-sig@melbpc.org.au

1st Thursday

7.30 – 9.45 pm

(except school holidays)

Ballarat & Clarendon College

614 Mair St, Ballarat

VicRoads map 254 L12

Ken Smith

5332 7851 BH & AH

Ballarat is a general purpose SIG, usually we have no specific topic; it suits everyone at present to let the meeting run in a direction that is topical on the night. From time to time we have a guest speaker/presenter on something of particular interest to us at the time but free form seems the norm at present.

Bendigo

bend-sig@melbpc.org.au

<http://home.primus.com.au/alistair/melbpc>

2nd Wednesday

7.30 – 10.00 pm

Girton Grammar School

105 Mackenzie St, Bendigo

(Vine Street entrance, then follow the signs)

VicRoads map 282 K14

Alistair Shaw

alistair@primus.com.au

0411 535 974 BH & AH

Joe Henry

0418 374 650 BH & AH

The Bendigo SIG is a regional group of computer users based in Bendigo.

Young, old, experienced, beginners, all are catered for. Each meeting consists of some presentation, where interesting, useful or helpful information is shared. Question and answer sessions are also a great help for those with computer related queries.

Clarion

clar-sig@melbpc.org.au

4th Wednesday

7.00 – 10.00 pm

Melb PC SIG Room

Roger Blackford

John Newman

5333 3391 BH

Communications

comm-sig@melbpc.org.au

<http://www.melbpc.org.au/sig/comms/>

2nd Wednesday

7.00 – 9.30 pm

Melb PC SIG Room

Philip Lew

9822 2998 BH (brief calls)

The Communications SIG focusses on all aspects of computer connectivity. Topics include modem communications (BBS and Internet dialup); Client / Server software, HTML and other Internet related topics. We also cover topics on Computer Networking (LANs and WANs) and other relevant general telecommunications issues of interest to the well connected PC user.

Daytime

day-sig@melbpc.org.au

http://members.xoom.com/day_1/

2nd Thursday

10.00 am – 12 noon

Melb PC SIG Room

Don Buchanan

9509 7119 BH & AH

Graeme Minto

9440 5030 BH & AH

Daytime SIG is very popular; we have a good mix of female and male attendees and members have expressed satisfaction with the informal nature of our presentations. The SIG suits members who prefer and are available to meet during daylight hours. A wide

range of topics are presented, dependant largely upon preferences expressed by the attending members. See our Web page for information.

Digital Photo

<http://www.melbpc.org.au/sig/digip/>

3rd Monday, 7.00 pm

Melb PC SIG Room

Thom Lyons

9525 9793 BH & AH

East

east-sig@melbpc.org.au

<http://www.vicnet.net.au/~mpceast>

2nd Tuesday

7.30 – 10.00 pm

Blackburn English Speaking

Language School

120 Eley Rd. Blackburn Sth.

Melways Ref. 61 J5

Keith Beresford

9733 5044 AH

9736 2515 BH

Margaret Brown

9874 5778

East Workshop

east-ws@melbpc.org.au

<http://www.vicnet.net.au/~eastsig/workshop/>

Sunday following the East SIG meeting,

10.00 am – 4.00 pm

Blackburn English Speaking

Language School

120 Eley Rd. Blackburn Sth.

Melways Ref. 61 J5

Ken Gubbins

9898 5478 PH/FAX

The **East Workshop** is hands-on, practical, interactive and runs on the principle "Show me how, and I'll do it with your assistance". We handle "how to upgrade", "software doesn't run", "slow computer", "no sound, no video" problems and more. Bring your computer along.

The **East Beginners Group** demonstrates how to set up and maintain a computer, how to run software, scan documents, process images, sort out error messages, etc. All procedures are repeated (slowly), until members feel confident with the new knowledge.

Foothills (Boronia)

foothills-sig@melbpc.org.au

<http://www.foothills-sig.com/>

1st Sunday (except January)

1.00 pm – 3.30 pm

Progress Hall (rear entrance)

134 Boronia Road

(near Dorset Road.)

Melways map 64 K9

Bob Wise 9870 8272

Genealogy

genealog-sig@melbpc.org.au

<http://www.vicnet.net.au/~eastsig/genealogy/>

Sunday following the East SIG meeting.

12.30 pm – 3.00 pm

Blackburn English Speaking

Language School

120 Eley Rd. Blackburn Sth.

Melways Ref. 61 J5

Bruno Dik

9733 4585

The Genealogy SIG is for those beginning genealogy and for those who are advanced but need more computer knowledge to move ahead. Members' trials, tribulations and expertise are openly discussed and freely shared in this self-help group.

Graphics

graph-sig@melbpc.org.au

3rd Monday

7.30 – 10.30 pm

Melb PC SIG Room

Yahya Abdal-Aziz

9562 1023 AH (brief calls)

The Graphics SIG explores issues related to computer graphics software and hardware. Members provide demonstrations each month, covering areas such as paint programs, animation, graphics programming, printing, and scanning. Visitors are invited to bring along their graphics problems.

Hardware

hardware-sig@melbpc.org.au

<http://www.melbpc.org.au/sig/hw/>

3rd Wednesday

7.00 – 11.00 pm

Melb PC SIG Room

Felix Hofmann

0408 023 423 BH

9523 5400 AH

Thom Lyons

9525 9793 BH & AH

We deal with all levels of PC

Hardware from chips to complete networks of computers. Members are invited to bring their questions and/or their hardware to the meeting for advice / assistance

LUBe

lube-sig@melbpc.org.au
<http://www.melbpc.org.au/sig/lube/>
3rd Thursday
7.00 – 10.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room
Thom Lyons
9525 9793 BH & AH

MACE

(Melbourne Atari Computer Enthusiasts)

mace-sig@melbpc.org.au
<http://mace.atari.org/>
3rd Sunday
10.00 am – 2.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room
Graham Hurford
9416 1126 AH
Roger Davies
9879 1109 BH & AH
Enquiries 0500 818 448
The Atari SIG is dedicated to the joy of Atari. The SIG is fast, furious and action packed. We welcome all owners and former owners (we know you are out there) to visit us and join in the fun; it's a soul thing.

Music

music-sig@melbpc.org.au
2nd Thursday
7.30 – 9.30 pm
Melb PC SIG Room
Yahya Abdal-Aziz
9562 1023 AH (brief call please)
Eric Best
5781 1224 AH

New Users, East

neue-sig@melbpc.org.au
2nd Tuesday
7.30 – 10.00 pm
(except January)
St Mark's Anglican Church
Cnr Canterbury & Burke Rds,
Camberwell
Melway map 45 J10
Mark Trickett
9480 6695 BH & AH
New Users, East caters for the needs of prospective and new computer users, new members having machine operating or system problems, and those new members wishing to increase their understanding of their equipment.

Northern Suburbs

north-sig@melbpc.org.au
4th Wednesday
7.00 pm – 10.00 pm
Level 1,
36 South Crescent
Northcote.
Kristian Speers
9482 7141 or 0413 627 578
Mark Trickett
9480 6695 BH & AH

OS/2

os2-sig@melbpc.org.au
4th Tuesday (except December)
6.30 pm – 9.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room
John Angelico
9544 8792 BH & AH
The OS/2 SIG offers technical and user-level support for all OS/2 users, covering all from 1.x to Warp Server for e-Business, plus native application software. Meetings feature news, software reviews, tips and tricks and the latest updates. Technical support days focus on installation and support for OS/2 applications and hardware assistance.

Programming

prog-sig@melbpc.org.au
2nd Tuesday
7.30 – 10.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room
Ross Hall
5428 7497 AH
9699 4000 BH
Andrew Callaway
9619 4067 BH

Quicken

quicken-sig@melbpc.org.au
<http://viv-martin.hypermart.net/quicken.html>
4th Thursday (except Dec.)
7.00 – 9.30 pm
Melb PC SIG Room
Viv Martin
9583 5372 BH & AH
Bob Mayston
9557 3828 BH & AH
An enjoyable and helpful evening for members interested in bookkeeping and accountancy software for personal finance, investment and small business applications. Starting with a question time and problem solving introduction followed by a range of helpful tips and tricks with segments for both new and advanced users. Latest versions are previewed immediately they are available. Members are invited to contribute questions and solutions from their experience. Visitors are welcome.

Retired & Interested Persons

rip-sig@melbpc.org.au
<http://www.melbpc.org.au/sig/rip/>
10.00 am – 12 noon
4th (not last) Friday
Lutheran Church,
25 Cypress Ave,
Glen Waverley
Melway map 62 A9
Ken Thomas
9884 5309 AH
Noel Peters

Teen Game Development

youth-sig@melbpc.org.au
3rd Friday
7.30 pm
Melb PC SIG Room
Tobias Cohen
The Teen Game Development SIG focuses on game development for Under 18s with Games Factory, Klick'n'Play, MZX, Delphi, VB, Qbasic, GWBASIC, BASICA, Assembly, C, C++, Turbo C++, Visual C++, C++ Builder and more. Dedicated to teenagers interested in learning or furthering their skills in computer game development.

Video Editing (General)

video-sig@melbpc.org.au
<http://www.vicnet.net.au/~vidsig/>
4th Monday
7.00 – 9.30 pm
45 Talbot Ave, Balwyn
Melway map 46 E8
Albert Vanzet
9439 1768 BH & AH

Video Editing (Non-linear)

videonl-sig@melbpc.org.au
1st Tuesday (incl Nov)
7.30 – 10.00 pm
Melb PC SIG room
Lawrie Weston
9742 3738
Two computer video editing groups cater for the needs of Melb PC members. Their aim is to assist those who use the various hardware and software options to operate these systems and to convert their source recordings into pleasant and entertaining video productions. The "General" SIG uses both "linear" and "non-linear" systems and discusses topics such as "the art of video and video editing" The "Non-Linear" SIG concentrates only on that form of video editing and the various effects it offers. Both groups encourage members to bring along samples of their work for discussion. Visitors are always welcome.

Warragul

warr-sig@melbpc.org.au
1st Friday
7.30 – 10.00 pm
Warragul Education Centre
Smith St, Warragul
VicRoads map 337 Q8
Doreen Gillett (Assistant Sec.)
5622 2865 AH

WASINT (Web and Software Investment Tools)

WASINT-Sig@melbpc.org.au
<http://www.melbpc.org.au/sig/WASINT/>
3rd Thursday
7.00 pm – 9.30 pm
Melb PC Top Floor SIG Room
Richard Solly
9626 7640 AH
Become more confident in the use of web and software tools as part of your financial life. Join others, both at the monthly meeting and through the online web board to share your favourite sites and information sources in the exploding field of online financial information.

Web Development

webdev-sig@melbpc.org.au
<http://www.melbpc.org.au/sig/webdev/>
4th Monday
7.00 – 10.30 pm
Melb PC SIG Room
Thom Lyons
9525 9793 BH & AH

Web Development Workshop

webdev-sig@melbpc.org.au
2nd Saturday, 10.30 am
Melb PC SIG Room
Thom Lyons
9525 9793 BH & AH
(members may bring their own systems)

Western Suburbs

west-sig@melbpc.org.au
<http://www.angelfire.com/or/westsig>
4th Tuesday
7.00 – 9.00 pm
Our Lady's Tennis Club,
Sunshine. (near the corner
of Cornwall & Devonshire)
Melway map 26 K12
Tony Calenti 9370 8193 AH

Windows

win-sig@melbpc.org.au
1st Monday
7.00 – 9.30 pm
Melb PC SIG Room
Lynn Pollock
9598 3186 AH
9533 5002 BH

Windows 2000

<http://www.melbpc.org.au/sig/nt/>
3rd Tuesday
7.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room
John Bade
9326 8340 BH
Keith Satterley

Changes and updates to Dave Botherway — daveb@melbpc.org.au

Forthcoming Events

Interact + IT 2000

Members — Check the Melb PC home page about a week prior to this event. You will find a link to a site where you can obtain free tickets. See the show, visit the Melb PC stand and save your \$20.00 entry free. Here is part of a recent press release.

E Commerce The Focus At Interact + IT 2000

Interact + IT 2000 the Asia Pacific Region's largest exhibition for IT and Multimedia will be staged at Melbourne's Exhibition Centre from 29 August to 1 September 2000.

The exhibition will feature over 200 exhibitors, a comprehensive free seminar program, keynote presentations and the first showing of hundreds of new products. This year's exhibition will have a strong focus on e-commerce and its applications for business. E-commerce has become a key component of a company's business strategy and the exhibition will provide managers with an opportunity to examine the latest hardware and software solutions and discuss their individual applications and requirements with industry experts.

Other exhibition highlights include a WAP pavilion. WAP is expected to grow at an exponential rate as businesses and consumers recognise the benefits of using mobile phones to access internet services. Another show highlight will be the Linux pavilion. Recent surveys have indicated that over 15% of companies in Australia are already using Linux and around 25% are considering Linux for future use.

The free seminar program which is being sponsored by connect.com.au will feature a series of 30 minute presentations on the latest hot topics including e-commerce, the internet, networking, Linux and multimedia. Experts from leading companies will present their vision for the future with

ways to incorporate the latest technological developments into the business of today.

Interact + IT 2000 is specifically designed to meet the needs of professional, business, government and trade visitors. Persons including children, not in this category will not be admitted. Opening times are: Tuesday 11 am – 6 pm, Wednesday 10 am – 6 pm, Thursday 10 am – 9 pm (late night) and Friday 10 am – 5 pm. Professional, business, government and trade visitors can register now via the web-site: www.itexpo.com.au □

Filtering the Internet: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

A forum co-sponsored by:

Australian Library and Information Association Victoria Branch
<http://www.alia.org.au/branches/vic/>
Electronic Frontiers Australia Inc.
<http://www.efa.org.au>

Program Description

It has been just over one year since the amendments to the Broadcasting Services Act covering the legality of different types of content on the Internet became law in Australia. In December 1999 the Australian Broadcasting Authority (ABA) approved the Internet Industry Association (IIA) Code of Practice version 6.0 which was purely concerned with content regulation. This version included a list of "Approved Filters" which ISPs were required to "provide for use, at a charge determined by the ISP".

What is the story on filtering software and content regulation? What has been the experience in the United States, which has also been examining the use of filtering devices? What has been found out about the list of software products listed by the IIA? How can you think about filtering good, bad or ugly?

Date: Monday 9 October
Time: 11.00 am – 1.30 pm

Format: A panel of three, each getting 45 minutes for presentation and Q&A, with remaining time available for general conversation by the panel and audience on issues raised

Venue: Village Roadshow Theatre, State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne (corner of Latrobe Street and Swanston; entrance on Latrobe Street side; Melbourne Central train station.)

Admission: no charge
Bookings essential.

RSVP Helen Sweeny ph: 9816 4904,
e-mail h.sweeny@c031.aone.net.au

Presentations:

U.S. Libraries and the Internet: The Roller Coaster Years

Ann Symons, 1998-99 President of the American Library Association, is a familiar library voice on filtering and Internet management issues. She has chaired ALA's Intellectual Freedom Committee, is currently a member of the Freedom to Read Foundation Board, and the 2000 winner of the Robert B. Downs Intellectual Freedom Award. Symons is the author of numerous articles as well as co-author of *Protecting the Right to Read: A How-to-do-it manual for school and public librarians* (Neal-Schuman) and co-editor of *Speaking Out: Voices in Celebration of Intellectual Freedom* (ALA Editions).

Online Content: Whose Problem?

Derek Whitehead, Director, Information Resources at Swinburne University of Technology. From 1996 to the end of 1999 he was Deputy State Librarian at the State Library of Victoria a position which followed a long career at the State Library, including various positions at senior level from 1988–1999. Derek has also been president of the Australian library industry association, ACLIS (1998 – 99), and is a Fellow of the Australian Library and

Information Association (1995). In 2000 he was awarded the R D Williamson Award for his contribution to the use of information technology in Australian libraries. With regard to his involvement in this topic, Derek is a member of the Board of NetAlert Limited, a body created in December 1999 to provide community and industry advice to the Commonwealth Government on the operation of the online content provisions of the Broadcasting Services Act, and public education relating to the Internet.

Filtered Content: Whose Decision?

Irene Graham, Executive Director, Electronic Frontiers Australia. Irene joined EFA in 1995 and has been a Board Member and Secretary since October 1997. Irene became active in opposing attempts to censor the Internet in 1994, shortly after she started using the Net. She maintains a comprehensive web site on the topic of censorship. She is also concerned by threats to civil liberties in general and has a particular interest in privacy, both on and off-line. □

More Friday Night Seminars

Melb PC Training is holding another series of seminars on Friday nights.

Bookings are essential. Contact the office to ensure a seat. Phone 9699 6222 9.00am – 5.00pm

The First Seminar

Friday 8 September
6.30 pm – 9.30 pm
101 Tips for Microsoft Word.
Cost \$20.00

Practical demonstrations and advice on how to configure Microsoft Word to your requirements and needs. Most Word users make use of barely 5% of the features available. This will show you how to find and use some of the other 95% There will be an opportunity to have your individual questions answered during the seminar.

The Second Seminar

Friday 6 October
6.30 pm – 9.30 pm
What's Inside the Box.
Cost \$20.00

A simplified explanation of computer components and their functions. Covering all devices including DVD, USB, CD-ROM, Sound Card, Network Card, Hard Drive, RAM, CPU, Video and much more. There will be an opportunity to have your individual questions answered during the seminar. □

Apologies for Any Confusion

Last month we ran an article informing members about the forthcoming FragFest for gamers. The date was incorrect. Information received from the organisers had the event occurring on Saturday 15 August and they should have given us Saturday 5 August. We didn't check a calendar and the error found its way into *PC Update*. □

Members Free Ad

For Sale

Three new and one nearly new Canon EP-S toner cartridges and Canon LBP8 Mark 3 printer with faulty fuser assembly. \$50 or swap for cartridges suitable for Canon LBP-460
Ian 9569-5579 e-mail imcd@melbpc.org.au



POLLOCK Computer Services

Computer Consultants and Repair Specialists

Phone 9533 5002 Fax 9502 0050 Mobile 0412 543841

e-mail lynn@melbpc.org.au www.sustance.com/pollock

- Quality PCs built to your specifications professionally assembled, tested and optimised
- Competitive prices using reliable components. Fully configured to your requirements
- All Software and Hardware problems solved at your home or office 7 days a week
- Specialising in MS DOS. All versions of Windows, Networks and Internet configuration
- Internet Tuition & Microsoft products Training available on-site to suit your needs
- Active member within MPCUG for over 6 years... Members discounts available

Call today to discuss your computer needs with a member you can trust

Electronic Health Records — Your Health Online?

Monika Merkes

Recent media reports about employers and insurance companies requesting individuals' medical records, and a leaked government document about a proposal to sell Medicare information to interested organisations have alerted the public to some of the potential pitfalls of having confidential information stored in large databases.

Perhaps surprisingly, such databases have traditionally been opposed not only by consumer and privacy groups, but also by medical bodies such as the Australian Medical Association. The concerns are many and varied but in particular they have focussed on the privacy of health information that can be traced back to an individual, the reliability and quality of the health data, and the degree to which consumers and doctors have a say in who uses the information and how it is used. Leaked information from a single doctor's surgery may hurt a small number of people, leaked information from a national database will severely damage many people's relationship with the health system. There are also concerns that such a system may be used to check doctors' prescribing habits or consumer entitlements like medications at concession rates. If smart cards are part of an electronic health records system, Australians may perceive this as yet another attempt at the Australia Card.

In contrast, proponents of electronically stored health records counter that they can contain costs, achieve continuity in medical care and consistency of medical records, and provide useful data for public health research. They can reduce duplication of diagnostic testing, imaging and history taking and increase the adoption of screening programs and

preventive health measures. An integrated electronic health record could be used as a personalised medical alert system, warning providers about allergies, possible drug interactions or pre-existing conditions that may influence treatment choices.

These arguments have won the support of the Australian Health Ministers, who recently announced that Australia will soon join the growing number of countries — including Canada, the UK and New Zealand — which have already started to introduce electronic health records at a national level. This new national database of patients' medical histories is to be called HealthConnect and will gradually be introduced over the next decade.

HealthConnect will collect health-related information about an individual in a standard, electronic format at the point of care. With the individual's consent, summaries of the health care provider's notes will be stored and can be retrieved and exchanged via a secure network between those health care providers authorised by the consumer to access this information. This shared information, the Federal Government claims, will put providers involved in the care of an individual in a better position to make decisions in partnership. The Government assures us that participation in HealthConnect will be voluntary and those who participate will have full control over their personal health information. The Government also assures us that participation in HealthConnect will be voluntary and that the information kept about us will be protected by rigorous privacy and security measures (www.health.gov.au/healthonline/connect.htm).

Can we trust this promise though? Once this large database is established, how can the individual be sure that his or her information is accessed only by authorised persons? Whose property is the stored information? How easy will it be for individuals to amend their health information once it is on the system? For example, someone may wish to delete information about a previous mental health problem because it is not relevant to their current health status, but may prejudice the way that others with access to the database deal with them.

Clearly the whole issue raises complex and legitimate privacy concerns. To this end Australian governments are developing new privacy legislation, with The Privacy Amendment (Private Sector) Bill 2000 having been introduced into Federal Parliament by the Attorney-General in April this year. Whilst this Bill deals with the fair handling of personal information in the private sector, it does not extend to the public sector, such as government departments (<http://law.gov.au/privacy/InformationPaper.pdf>).

The Victorian Government has released its draft Health Records Bill which will apply to health service providers and non-health agencies such as health insurance companies, employers, schools and sporting clubs. Health information in this context covers traditional medical records including records about physical, mental and psychological health, as well as information about a disability, information about donation of body parts, and genetic information which is in a form that is, or could be, predictive of the individual's health (<http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/ahs/healthrecords/index.htm>).

This Bill will also give Victorians access to their medical records both in the private and public sector. The Health Records Bill complements the Information Privacy Bill 2000 which was recently introduced into the Victorian Parliament. The Information Privacy Bill applies to all personal information, except health information, that is collected or held by the Victorian public sector and organisations that are funded by the public sector (<http://www.dms.dpc.vic.gov.au/pdocs/bills/B00596/index.html>).

It seems that information technology and telecommunications are not only causing a revolution in communication and commerce, but will perhaps inevitably bring about major changes in the way health information is accessed and health care services are delivered. Whilst the arguments for the introduction of a system such as HealthConnect are compelling, it would not be wise to overlook its attendant problems. Initially, participation in HealthConnect will be voluntary, but this may change in the future. So it seems especially important that we as individual health service consumers — and not just Government and health service providers — inform ourselves about the issues and processes and ensure that our interests are considered and respected.

About the Author:

Monika Merkes, monika@melbpc.org.au has worked in the health and human services sector over the last ten years, and recently “retired” temporarily to work on her doctoral thesis in public health. □

Some of my favourite health information websites:

- <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/talks/8.30/helthrpt/hrtran.htm>
Radio National Health Report.
- <http://www.library.tmc.edu/altmed.html>
A list of websites concerned with alternative medicine, compiled by the library of the Houston Academy of Medicine - Texas Medical Center.
- <http://www.MedicineNet.com/Script/Main/hp.asp>
MedicineNet.com is backed by a network of U.S. Board Certified Physicians and Allied Health Professionals working together to provide the public with current, comprehensive medical information, written in easy to understand language. Includes an online medical dictionary.
- <http://www.who.ch/>
World Health Organization.
- <http://www.aihw.gov.au/>
The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare offers a number of free online publications, such as “Australia’s Health 2000”.
- <http://www.update-software.com/ccweb/cochrane/revabstr/ccabout.htm>
The Cochrane Library is an electronic publication designed to supply high quality evidence to inform people providing and receiving care, and those responsible for research, teaching, funding and administration at all levels.
- <http://www.patient.co.uk/>
Patient UK, a directory of UK health and illness websites.
- <http://www.gp.org.au/vic.html>
Links to the websites of Victorian and National Divisions of General Practice. Check out your local Division of General Practice.
- <http://www.whv.org.au/>
Women’s Health Victoria. Includes guides to resources on a variety of health topics for women, including menopause, eating disorders and domestic violence.
- <http://www.ihealthcoalition.org/community/ethics.html>
Information on e-health ethics.
- <http://www.rx2000.org/ehealth/chpubs.htm>
Links to e-health related articles and other publications.
- <http://www.graylab.ac.uk/cgi-bin/omd?action=Home&query=>
CancerWeb’s online medical dictionary.



Paradigm Software Pty. Ltd.
Management Systems Software

Paradigm II

Totally integrate general business management,
Quality ISO 9000, Environmental ISO 14000,
Automotive QS 9000, Records Management,
OH&S, Food & Beverage Safety.

(03) 9723 2302

www.paradigmsoftware.com.au

PO Box 400, Croydon, Vic. 3136. Australia
Fax: (03) 9723 3242 / e-mail: sales@paradigmsoftware.com.au

How to start and produce
A MAGAZINE
or Newsletter

Everything you need to
know to write the text,
sell for ads, design the
pages, prepare the
network, have it
printed, sell the copies,
and make a profit

**MORE THAN
A BOOK!**
This book is
a complete course
in magazine
production

Gordon Woolf

**How to Start and Produce
a Magazine or Newsletter**

The Third Edition of How to Start and Produce a Magazine is now out. The “trade secrets” of printing and publishing in one handy volume. \$35 (\$38.50 inc GST) less 10% and free postage for Melb PC members.

Also available: **PUBLISH YOUR BOOK**
HAVE A GARAGE SALE AND MAKE SOME MONEY
MONEY NEWSPAPER PRODUCTION USING PAGERMAKER 6.5 (Ask for free leaflet)

“Format” is our free monthly email newsletter of interest to anyone producing newsletters, magazines, newspapers, or any formatted publication. Back issues are at: www.worsleypress.com/format/

Worsley Press, 11 Lintel Court, Hastings 3915
Freecall **1800 622 805** email info@worsleypress.com
The publication production website: **www.worsleypress.com**

Internet Newsgroups on the BBS

Michael Marquart

As George Skarbek mentioned in his president's column, the local Melb PC Internet newsgroups are now available on the BBS. For those members who don't have Internet access, here is some information regarding connecting with your modem to the Melb PC BBS (Bulletin Board System)

What Program Do I Use?

The Windows 3.xx "Terminal" or Windows 95/98 "HyperTerminal" can be used to dial into the BBS as can any other communications program, such as the MS DOS or Windows version of "Telix". (Note that you cannot use the normal Internet Dial-Up Networking setup to connect to the BBS.) I strongly recommend that you select a program that has a ZMODEM file transfer protocol, which allows reliable and simple file downloads and uploads; and an ANSI compatible screen standard, which allows you to see colour on the BBS. All modern communication programs should have both.

To see the BBS screens in colour ensure that you select (or enable) ANSI or ANSI-BBS when entering the phone number for the BBS in the "phone book" for your terminal program. The main BBS rotary number is 9699 6611.

Windows HyperTerminal may not display the graphic boxes around the BBS menus correctly but this can easily be rectified by changing to a font that has all the graphic characters built in. A pull down menu in HyperTerminal allows you to change the font while watching the menu screens. Try the font MS LineDraw if you cannot easily

find a suitable font. Varying the font size from this menu option and maximising the HyperTerminal window will also help you to fit the BBS screen onto your Windows desktop at a size that best suits your screen resolution.

Navigating Around the BBS

After your modem has connected to the BBS there is the login process which is followed by a bulletin menu, a personal mail scan, and then you arrive at the main menu.

From the main menu, selections will take you to several other menus such as the Files area, the Message area, the Online Games area and Information sub-menu.

To navigate around the text-only menus you need to select the highlighted character of the menu or the feature that you wish to use with your keyboard, and not your mouse. Later when you learn to navigate the various menus you can alter your personal settings to enable or disable hot key navigation. The Q key returns you to the Main Menu from most other menus on the BBS.

Logging in to the BBS

The login process will ask for your name and your password. If you are asked only for a password but you have never used the BBS before, then there is already a user with your name. You must dial in again and perhaps add your middle initial, or some other variation that will distinguish you from the other person — or try a contraction of your first name e.g. Andy instead of Andrew.

During your initial login you will be asked to supply some personal details, including your membership number and then to enter a password. Upon completion of this login procedure you will be able to browse the BBS and download some files, with some limitations of file size and time online until your member details have been verified by the Office personnel. This may take a few working days after which you will be given full access to the BBS with unrestricted download privileges and write access to the message areas, as well as access to the Online Games.

New User Help

There are help screens on the BBS that will assist you in exploiting what the BBS has to offer. Some of these selections are a bit dated now (BBS usage has declined somewhat since the Internet came into vogue), and all offers of assistance to rewrite the help screens will be gladly received.

What is Fidonet?

The BBS has a parallel to Usenet Newsgroups which is called Fidonet. This is also world wide in scope, messages are sent all around the world, but the message areas are moderated and not subject to the same levels of spam you will find in Usenet. The message turnover times are not as instantaneous as they are on the Internet; messages are sent out once daily. □

**Check thousands
of prices from
hundreds of
companies**

**All Prices for
Computer and
Hi-Tech Products**

PricePoint
www.pricepoint.com.au

Check it out
www.pricepoint.com.au

**We don't
sell anything!
We just give
you information!**

Financial Report for Year Ended 30 June 2000

MELBOURNE PC USER GROUP INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2000

INCOME	2000	1999
	\$	\$
Non-Operating	\$76,812	\$53,578
Disk Sales	\$6,358	\$13,336
PC Update Income	\$21,033	\$56,481
Membership	\$441,617	\$475,302
Training	\$69,118	\$63,902
Internet	\$756,051	\$663,395
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,370,989	\$1,325,993

EXPENSES

Advertising & Promotion	\$5,416	\$5,452
Archive Storage	\$671	\$649
Audit & Accounting	\$3,700	\$2,750
Connection Costs	\$168,283	\$199,839
Bank Fees	\$12,144	\$11,125
Cleaning	\$10,517	\$10,679
Commission Advertising	\$0	\$9,065
Conferences & Meetings	\$31,202	\$28,770
Consultancy	\$32,001	\$21,525
Consultancy — Marketing Project	\$0	\$4,125
Delivery Expenses	\$79	\$66,458
Depreciation	\$130,362	\$248,114
General Expenses	\$2,892	\$381
Heat Light & Power	\$14,153	\$13,349
Insurance	\$7,551	\$7,548
Legal & Litigation Costs	\$1,736	\$1,533
Library Book Purchases	\$0	\$296
Postage	\$16,826	\$18,156
Printing & Stationery	\$14,931	\$14,602
PC Update Expenses	\$190,583	\$159,028
Purchases Disks	\$1,084	\$2,279
Rent Rates & Taxes	\$60,573	\$58,432
Repairs & Maintenance	\$10,465	\$13,179
Security	\$1,636	\$2,359
Software	\$235	\$4,841
Staff & SIG Amenities	\$2,977	\$3,090
Subscriptions & Donations	\$803	\$1,188
Superannuation	\$6,623	\$5,915
Telephone & Fax	\$142,934	\$99,114
Travel & Accommodation	\$14,408	\$13,484
Wages & Salary	\$95,566	\$91,033
Workcare	\$900	\$704
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$981,252	\$1,119,061

Operating Surplus	\$389,737	\$206,932
--------------------------	------------------	------------------

I am pleased to submit and report on the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2000.

Summary

The Group has recorded an operating surplus of \$389,892 compared with \$206,932 in 1998/9.

Membership retention and membership growth continues to be high. The total number of members as at 30 June 2000 is 10,440 of which 1,474 are individual family members. This compares with 10,647 and 1,427 as at 30 June 1999.

Capital Expenditure

During the year equipment to the value of \$86,679 was purchased for the Group's various activities. Of this, \$68,460 was for Internet equipment, \$8,840 for Training, \$1,034 for Office and \$8,345 for SIGs and Meetings.

Staffing

A significant contributor to the financial results and smooth running of the Group is the effort of paid staff and volunteers. Our thanks to them all for a job well done.

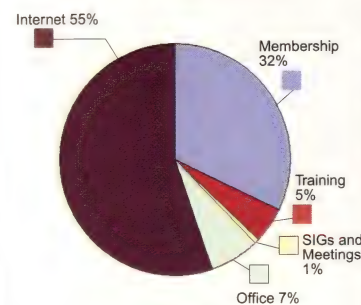
Conclusion

The Group remains in a strong financial position. For the future, the key challenges are around seeking to provide even better and more relevant services to members. □

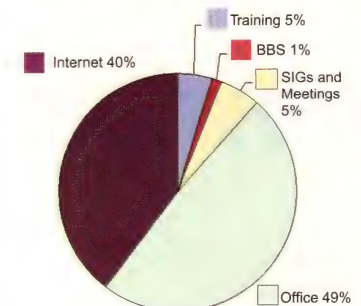


*William Ford FCPA
Treasurer*

Income by Department



Expense by Department



BALANCE SHEET

	30 JUNE 2000	30 JUNE 1999
Current Assets		
Debtors	\$540	\$8,147
Less Provision for Doubtful Debts	\$0	(\$3,000)
	\$540	\$5,147
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	\$138,048	\$77,638
Bank Bills	\$1,566,464	\$1,191,971
Term Deposit	\$32,500	\$32,500
Cash on Hand	\$400	\$400
Stock On Hand	\$52	\$182
Prepayments	\$8,986	\$8,635
	\$1,746,990	\$1,316,473
Less Current Liabilities		
Creditors and Accruals	\$56,223	\$59,650
Sundry Creditors and Accruals	\$465,271	\$464,900
	\$521,494	\$524,550
	\$1,225,496	\$791,923
Add Fixed Assets		
Equipment & Fittings	\$598,981	\$1,219,434
Less Provision for Depreciation	(\$342,202)	(\$918,819)
	\$256,779	\$300,615
	\$1,482,275	\$1,092,538
Represented By		
Membership Equity 1 July 1999	\$1,092,538	\$885,452
Equipment Reserve	\$0	\$154
	\$1,092,538	\$885,606
Add / (Less) Surplus to Date	\$389,737	\$206,932
	\$1,482,275	\$1,092,538

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 30 June 2000

1. Statement of Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared and presented in accordance with Accounting Concepts and applicable Accounting Standards, which have been consistently applied. They have been prepared using historical cost convention and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

2. Stock and Purchases

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, and costs are assigned on a first-in first-out basis.

3. Fixed Assets

Fixed assets are brought into account at cost less accumulated depreciation.

4. Depreciation

Depreciation on assets is calculated on a straight line bases over the useful life to the Group of the asset commencing from the time the asset is first available for use.

5. Prepaid Subscriptions

All subscriptions for membership relating to the period after 30 June 2001 and Internet relating to the period after 30 June 2000 are included in the accounts as current liabilities, and will be allocated to the periods which they cover

6. Commitments and Contingencies

	30 June 00	30 June 99
Operating lease commitment		
Future minimum operating lease payments		
Not later than one year	\$84,210	\$80,621
Later than one year but not later than five years	\$181,261	\$174,817
	\$265,471	\$255,438

7. During the year, the Group entered into contracts with Skarbek Consulting to the value of \$1,800 (1999: \$10,671) for the supply of resellable books. George Skarbek was a member of the Committee of Management at the time of purchase, and is now President. In addition, during the time that Morris Tobias was president, his Company, Computer Rebuilds, provided equipment to the value of \$4,435 (1999: \$20,629) to the Group, and Barry Martin, a member of the committee provided equipment to the value of \$260.

AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MELBOURNE PC USER GROUP INCORPORATED

I advise that I have audited the financial statements, including the Balance Sheet, Income & Expenditure Statement and Notes to the Accounts, of the Melbourne PC User Group Incorporated ("the Group") for the year ended 30 June, 2000 in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards.

The audit has been conducted in accordance with Rule 37 of the Group's rules. I have not been requested to audit, or express an opinion on, any matters not contained within that Rule, and accordingly no such opinion is expressed herein.

I have obtained all the information and explanations requested.

In my opinion:

- (a) the Balance Sheet, Income & Expenditure Statement and Notes to the Accounts are properly drawn up:
 - (i) to exhibit a true and fair view of the financial position of the Group as at 30 June, 2000, and
 - (ii) in accordance with the books of account of the Group, and
- (b) the rules of the Group relating to the administration of funds have been properly observed.

Dated this 10th day of August, 2000.

Peter G Salter, FCA

Registered Company Auditor

AGM and Elections



John Swale, Secretary

Notice is hereby given that the 17th Annual General Meeting of Melbourne PC User Group Incorporated will be held on Wednesday 1 November 2000 at the Pharmacy College, 381 Royal Parade, Parkville at 6.30 pm.

The November issue of *PC Update* will give details of Committee nominations and proxy forms for those unable to attend in person.

Agenda — Annual General Meeting

1. Minutes

To consider and, if thought appropriate, pass the following resolution:

“That the Minutes of the 16th Annual General Meeting held on 1 December 1999, be approved as a true and correct record.”

2. Reports

To receive the report from the President.

3. Election of Committee of Management

President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and eight ordinary members of Committee.

4. Accounts

To receive and consider the Treasurer's report and, if thought appropriate, pass the following resolution:

“That the statement pursuant to section 30 (3) of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981* containing the Income and Expenditure of the Group for the year to 30 June 2000 and the assets and liabilities of the Group at 30 June 2000 be accepted.”

5. Appointment of Auditor

Under rule 37 such Auditor may not be a member of the Committee, but may be a member of the Group, and shall be a member of the Australian Society of Accountants, Victorian Division or the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Australia, Victorian Branch, in public practice. □

Keep track of GST

Only \$69.95

GSTMate™ the Quick and Easy Software Solution

- Provide Invoicing and Adjustments to your Customers
- Record GST and Non-GST Transactions
- Record Sales and Purchases
- Produce Multiple Reports
- Minimize bookkeeping
- Provide GST analysis for your Accountant



<http://www.shirrasoft.com/>

Special Introductory Offer, \$20 off for Melb PC members



Post order to: **ShirraSoft, PO Box 129, Frankston, Vic. 3199**

☐ Cheque ☐ Money Order enclosed for ____ CDs at \$49.95 each.

Total amount \$ _____ includes GST, postage and handling.

Fill in details below:

Business name: _____

Required for program registration

Address: _____

Postcode _____ e-mail _____

Nominations

Nominations may be made on the form opposite, a photocopy of the form or on any other form that includes all the information on the form opposite.

Nominations must either be posted to:

The Secretary
Melbourne PC User Group Inc
PO Box 283
South Melbourne VIC 3205

or be hand- or courier-delivered to:

The Secretary
Melbourne PC User Group Inc
27 Dorcas Street
South Melbourne VIC 3205

Nominations delivered by fax, e-mail or BBS cannot be accepted.

Nominations of candidates shall be in writing, signed by two members of the group and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the form of nomination). They must be received by the Secretary before 5.00 pm on Friday 29 September 2000.

Nominations received after the closing time will not be accepted.

Nominations not accompanied by all three signatures will not be accepted.

A Candidate may optionally submit one statement each, *not exceeding 100 words* [Rule 23 (6) (d)], in support of his or her nomination(s). This statement must be received by the closing time for nominations. Any statement received late, or exceeding 100 words, will be rejected.

Nomination Form

Position(s) for which nomination is made (tick as appropriate).

President	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vice President	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secretary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Treasurer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Committee Member	<input type="checkbox"/>

Candidate's name and
membership number

..... No:

Candidate's signature
of acceptance

.....
Candidate's
residential address

.....
Proposer's name and
membership number

..... No:

Proposer's signature

.....
Secunder's name and
membership number

..... No:

Secunder's signature

.....
Date / / 2000

The Retiree

Albert Vanzet

During the days of stiff collars and waistcoats retirement meant a call from the boss to his office, a cup of tea with some colleagues and the traditional gold fob watch with chain. The latter worn like a war decoration in front of an extending stomach, evidence of both a faithful life of commitment and dull life of loyalty and subservience.

After a short speech and a kiss from the boss' secretary the retiree collected his meagre belongings from his desk, his work bench or his locker and ended his career with a couple of drinks or more together with his old work mates at the local. That's where they celebrated the end of his working life as a company servant.

As morning dawned and he started the first day of the evening of his life he wondered what he is going to do. For many years he had looked forward to this day when he did not have to get up at the crack of dawn, make his way to the station to catch the 7.24 to the city to start another day of pushing a pen, manipulating some machinery on his work bench or facing the grumpy customers across the counter.

His wife has already hauled the vacuum cleaner from the hallway cupboard and parked it with a sideward glance near the breakfast table where he is still reading the morning paper.

They had warned him, "You're retired mate, but the missus hasn't. You married her for better or for worse, but

not for breakfast. So stay out of the way".

He had laughed because he had other plans; he was going to play golf all day, he would share his hours with his mates at the pub. He was going to, and he forgot, because it was raining and his mates were still working.

When it stops raining I will get into the garden and mow the lawn and nurse the orchids. Tomorrow I'll play golf, tomorrow ...

Today the economic wealth has spread across the Western world, people are healthier, live longer and are more active. Sixty-five is no longer old, reaching retirement age now means the start of another period in a life that is filled with new developments in

COMPUSPEC BY RELAXO REDUCE COMPUTER EYE STRAIN SYMPTOMS

- HEADACHES
- BLURRED VISION

- DRY TIRED EYES
- WATERY EYES



Scientifically Safe & Sound

Designed by Optometrists to relax your eyes and reduce computer eye strain symptoms, COMPUSPEC spectacles are now available at major optical & retail outlets throughout Australia.

For more information, please visit our website or phone (03) 9486 0788

**Non Prescription
Australian Optical Standard**

www.relaxo.com.au

**11 Budd Street
Collingwood, Victoria 3066**

National Safety Council of Australia
NSCA
Australian Corporate Distributor

science, health and interests. Although poverty still exists, retirement for most is a time of new discoveries, travel, making new friends and starting new hobbies.

The waistcoat has been replaced by a T-shirt and the polished shoes are assigned to the wardrobe for use at weddings and funerals.

The gold fob watch has been replaced by a company pension scheme, savings and investments and a government organisation called Centrelink that treats its beneficiaries as customers.

For the last five to ten years of his working life computers had been part of the new retiree's working environment. The computer had opened a whole new world. "Why not buy one for yourself?" they had said. And he did. At first it was only a simple unit he used as a glorified word processor, but as time went by all those colourful magazines and their free CD-ROM disks inviting him to load up more and more games and programs, things got a bit bewildering. "Join a computer club", a friend who had retired some years earlier had told him. So he joined Melbourne PC User Group. It did not cost much to join, but as he read the group's magazine he soon discovered that his computer definitely needed a major update. Joining Melbourne PC User Group was not so cheap after all. Now he was digging big holes in his savings to get on the Internet and to speed up his computer processor and enlarge the hard drive.

A whole new world had opened up for him. To say that his computer had become his hobby would have been an understatement. Our retired gentleman got busier by the day. No sooner had he excused himself from the breakfast table he had withdrawn himself to his "home office" to log on to the Net and check his e-mail. It had become a daily ritual. The problem was that he did not know many people yet with whom he could exchange those all important early morning messages. He was often disappointed when he found that there were no messages to open.

As his interest in computers grew he started to join more Special Interest Groups. It was only fitting that he first went to the aptly named "RIP", the

Retired & Interest Persons group. Not only would he have an excuse to get away from the lurking vacuum cleaner, it would also be the best place to meet other similarly afflicted retirees. He was not disappointed. Not only did he learn how to enhance his computer proficiency, he made some good contacts too. His e-mail address book grew with each visit.

Then there were the grandchildren and the holidays to Bali and Fiji, maybe even that longed for trip to Europe and you could buy things duty-free. Why not buy yourself a video camera? You can record all those wonderful places and you can record the grandchildren and, oh, so much more.

But when the family watched his videos they soon lost interest, they talked among themselves and did not seem to enjoy his videos as much as he had thought they would. Of course he was only an amateur, what did they expect.

"Why don't you join the Video Editing Special Interest Group", they said and he did.

He saw how other members had edited their recordings, was told what to do and what not to do, enjoyed the demonstrations and presentations and enjoyed a night out together with like minded people.

He sometimes wondered how those Special Interest Groups were managed, but when the call came out to participate he felt that he was still too inexperienced to contribute to the management of the group. Apart from that he was too busy anyway, there were so many other things he had to do. Anyhow the meetings were going well without his participation, so he will just go and listen.

But the calls kept coming; it was the same at each group that he visited. After a while he decided to get to the SIG a bit earlier? "Maybe I can help with setting up the chairs and the tables and even help with the computer cables" he told the convener of the SIG.

His face became familiar at those meetings, he was always there lending a hand and he enjoyed it. The comradeship and the feeling that, at least, he did something to help.

Members Free Ad

FREE

To someone who will take it away.
Artwright computer desk with fixed monitor shelf. Pale gray, 126cm long, 70cm deep, 69cm high at desk, 92cm high at shelf. Good condition, needs cleaning from garage storage.

Paula,

9583 5884

Beaumaris

Soon he was approached by the convener of the group who asked if he would like to join the SIG's management committee. "Oh, but hang on! I don't know enough about computers yet". "How can I possibly give any input to your meetings?", he said.

The convener put him straight. "We don't want people because they are so good with computers. We want members who can come up with ideas. We want members who can help us manage the organisation of our SIG meetings," he said. "At the moment too much depends on too few people".

"All right", hesitantly our retired administrator replied, "but let me first join as an observer. If you find that my presence is valuable enough I will join your committee. By the way, thanks for your confidence in me".

Before long our new retiree had joined the ranks of those who have found themselves to be active members of that other Special Group that uses the slogan: "I am so busy that I don't know how I ever found time to work."

An active mind and spirit will enhance and extend years to the life of a retired person. The feeling of belonging to a community rewards those who have left their working years behind them.

Instead of wearing a gold fob watch chain on his stomach the new retiree now wears a name tag pinned to his chest. It proudly says:

This is me.

Committee Member
Special Interest Group
Melbourne PC User Group Inc. □

Internet Mailbox Problems

Stan Johnstone

As administrators of the Melb PC Internet Service we often receive calls from subscribers who have a large file blocking their mailbox and ask if we can remove it for them so their mail will flow normally.

Yes, we can do this — but so can you!

There are a number of programs that enable you to access your mailbox to look inside and then select messages for deletion from the server prior to opening your mailer program. One of the problems a system administrator faces is the large number of unwanted messages, some of which may be very large. Before opening my mailer program I always check the contents of my mailbox first, and delete any unwanted or oversized messages.

An excellent program is ScanMail. It is freeware and available from <http://www.kempston.demon.co.uk/smb/> or can be

downloaded from Melb PC at <http://www.melbpc.org.au/faq/smb3201.zip>. To use ScanMail you will need to obtain the file VB40032.DLL (available from <http://www.melbpc.org.au/faq/vb40032.dll>). Copy it into your C:\Windows\System folder. A ScanMail icon on your desktop makes it readily available to use whenever needed.

Configuration of ScanMail is very simple — use File|Configure|Accounts to add a new Account, with the POP3 Server address (popa.melbpc.org.au for Melb PC subscribers), your Login Name eg stanj, and your Password where indicated. For each e-mail account, you can specify the information you require by selecting Connection|Account Options and then the Mail List tab. As can be seen from Figure 1 below, ScanMail lists the headers of all e-mail currently in your

mailbox, and can be configured individually for accounts at different ISPs.

In the sample shown there are three files marked for deletion, and to delete these it was a simple matter to move to the pull-down menu under Message and select to delete the highlighted messages, which occurs on exiting the program. Although only the message headers are shown, the full details of the message size, date, sender, etc. are listed for your information. Another excellent feature is that a double-click on any header will allow a preview of the contents of the message. Not bad for a program available free for non-commercial use!

It is important to remember that only one program can access a mailbox at any one time. To download normally ensure that all other programs such as ScanMail are closed.

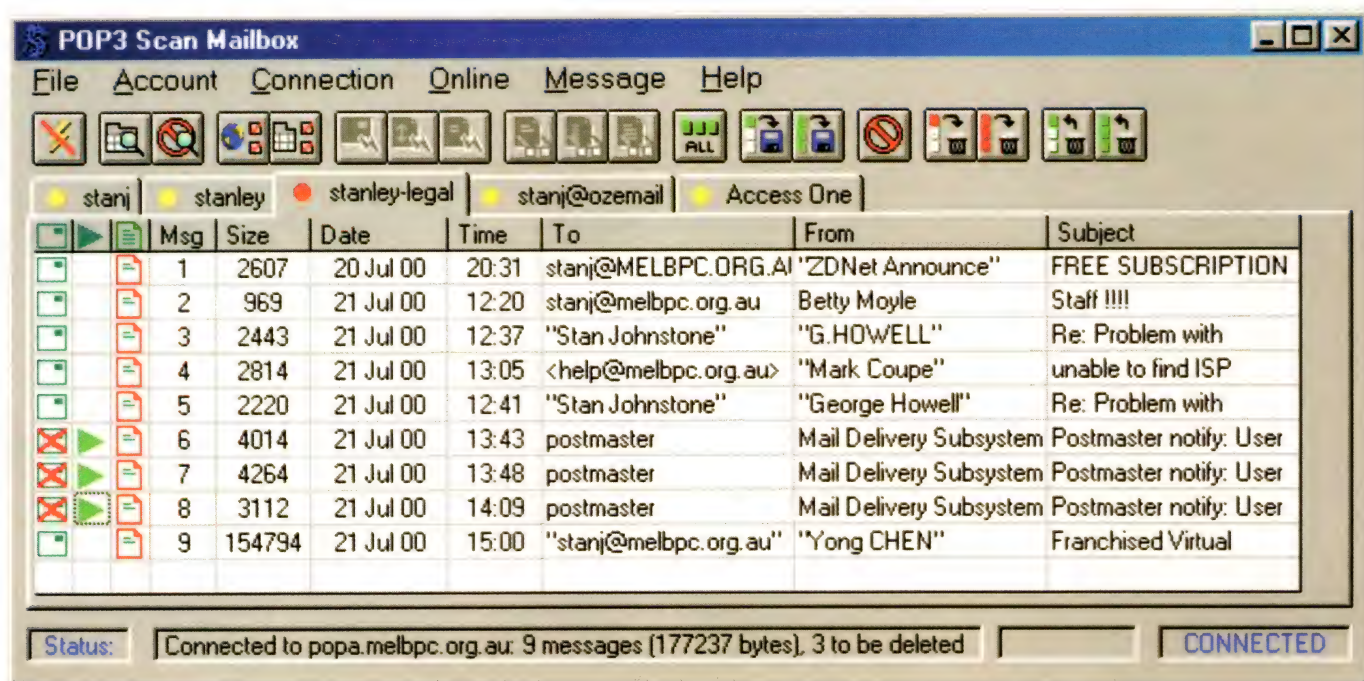


Figure 1. ScanMail showing typical contents of mailbox.

Mailbox "lock" In Place

When your mailbox is accessed using a mailer program or one of these mailbox management programs, the mailbox is *locked* by the system and on occasions you may receive an error message to this effect. This locking of the mailbox delays any further incoming messages until the mailbox has been freed by the mailer program advising that it had finished downloading mail.

Sometimes a mailbox may not be successfully freed due to an interrupted download or similar factor, and the mailbox will remain in *locked* condition until the system detects the problem. This may take some minutes before the system resets the mailbox and is then ready for access or to accept messages which may have been held back.

Removing Downloaded Mail from the Server

The default setting for all mailer programs is to delete all downloaded mail from the server after it has been successfully downloaded. This is done by your mailer program advising the server that the e-mail has been downloaded, and unless requested otherwise it will be deleted from the system. As a program such as ScanMail lists all the contents of your mailbox, it becomes obvious very quickly if messages are not being deleted.

In some cases you may wish to retain downloaded mail on the server for one reason or another, such as when travelling and although reading from a remote site while away, you may want

to be able to download and retain copies on your return home. However for normal use leaving a copy on the server is considered unwise as your mailbox steadily increases in size. This means that the mailer program has to sort through all messages in your mailbox each time of access and select only those e-mail messages which are to be downloaded. If the mailbox is allowed to continue to accumulate mail it and can become overfull, and having reached this limit, messages will be returned to the sender with appropriate notification.

Mailbox Size and Capacity

Melb PC subscribers have a mailbox capacity of 8 MB which is about the practical limit of e-mail that can be downloaded during a normal access period. Many ISPs make only 2 MB available, and with increased use of e-mail for attachments this can be restrictive. New mail will continue to be received provided the limit has not been reached, and once the limit has been reached no further mail can be accepted. Melb PC has a policy to automatically advise senders the that their message was not received. □

```
----- The following addresses had permanent fatal errors -----
<stanj@melbpc.org.au>
----- Transcript of session follows -----
stanj has exceeded their disk quota allocation and
incoming mail for them is being returned to the sender.
Postmaster will not notify stanj for you.
554 <stanj@melbpc.org.au>... Service unavailable
```



Computer Swap Meet Schedule

Sunday 3 September

Royal Melbourne Show Grounds
Epsom Road, Ascot Vale.
Malvern Town Hall
Corner High Street & Glenferrie Road

Sunday 10 September

Collingwood Town Hall, 140 Hoddle Street
Springvale City Hall, 397 Springvale Road
Geelong YMCA Hall
Cnr. Yarra & Little Malop St. Geelong

Sunday 17 September

Ivanhoe Centre, 275 Up. Heidelberg Road
Camberwell Centre, 340 Camberwell Road
Ballarat East Secondary College
Cnr Melbourne Rd & Fussell St. Ballarat

Sunday 24 September

Moorabbin Town Hall, 985 Nepean Highway
Box Hill Town Hall, 1022 Whitehorse Road
Geelong YMCA Hall
Cnr. Yarra & Little Malop St. Geelong

Sunday 1 October

Malvern Town Hall
Corner High Street & Glenferrie Road

Sunday 8 October

Collingwood Town Hall, 140 Hoddle Street
Springvale City Hall, 397 Springvale Road
Geelong YMCA Hall
Cnr. Yarra & Little Malop St. Geelong

Start at
9.00 am
Finish at
4.30 pm

PC Update will contain details of Swap Meets for the forthcoming six Sundays. For advance dates contact Technology Supermarkets Pty Ltd
Phone: 03 9886 1466

Members. Here is something you could hand around to your friends and acquaintances. Write your details in the "How did you learn About Melb PC" box on page 35, then photocopy and distribute freely.

Why You Should Join Melbourne PC User Group

Melbourne PC User Group is many things to many people, after all it is the second largest user group in the world! Even though each of our thousands of members has a unique experience of Melb PC, we have a common belief in the value of computer users helping other computer users.

Helping Them Do What?

The list is almost endless — some of the things Melb PC is best known for are:

Support

Practical and emotional support. Whether you're trying to install a new operating system, a hard drive, a word processor or flight simulator, someone at Melb PC has been there and done that. You may find a whole group of people who meet regularly to discuss the very problem you are experiencing.

Meeting

One of the ways Melb PC helps its members support each other is through meetings. Within its diverse membership you'll find novices, old hands and everyone in between. Whatever you're trying to do, there's someone to help you. As a member of Melb PC you'll also have the opportunity to meet industry leaders and technical experts representing major software and hardware vendors. They'll answer your questions and demonstrate the latest developments in computing technology, often before the general public gets the news.

Teaching, Learning and Enjoying

As an organisation, Melb PC with its range of skills and knowledge provides a range of formal and informal opportunities for teaching and learning new computing skills. So whatever the reason you use a computer, Melb PC helps you enjoy it more!

How?

Melb PC's greatest strength is its membership. With around 11,000 members, it is the world's second largest PC User Group. It was founded in 1984 and is still run by and for its members, people like yourself. Although Melb PC employs some staff, many activities such as maintaining the group's online services, organising monthly meetings etc., are performed by volunteers.

Who Belongs To Melb PC?

Anyone who uses a computer at work, school or play. Parents, children, grandparents and singles. Beginners, old hands, youngsters and oldies. Teachers, students, business operators,

secretaries, CEOs, doctors, lawyers, plumbers, electricians, builders, pilots, writers, editors, engineers, journalists, accountants and more! You name it, Melb PC's members do it. Your membership is your key to a vast store of knowledge, an invaluable information resource and help in many fields. Your benefits of membership come to you in many ways throughout the year:

PC Update

Eleven times a year, Melb PC's magazine *PC Update* brings you news about computer hardware, software and how your fellow members use these to achieve their goals. You'll read about members' experiences, learning from their successes and mistakes. Each issue also covers the group's regular activities and any special "members only" events or offers the group has arranged. Your yearly Melb PC membership includes *PC Update* delivered.

Computer First-Aid and Dial Help

Free vendor support is becoming scarcer every year. It's no wonder many members find these two services, alone, worth the cost of membership. These are "members only" services. Experienced volunteers share their time and knowledge to help fellow members work through problems. Just knowing there is someone to call gives some members the courage to try something new.

Internet Access

The Internet is the foundation of the communication revolution and the key to success in the new millennium. Melb PC pioneered the provision of affordable Internet access and remains an acknowledged leader offering very competitively priced Internet access to members. The fast and reliable service provides connection speeds up to 56 kbit/s, with preconfigured software for ease of installation, helpful technical support, and is constantly evolving in pace with emerging technology.

Training

Whether you're an absolute beginner planning to buy your first computer or a power user looking to update your skills, Melb PC has a training course for you. Most courses are hands on, conducted in Melb PC's own, modern, Pentium-equipped training centre. These courses are "members only" so they are cost-competitive compared to similar courses elsewhere. Each month *PC Update* contains details of forthcoming courses.

Meetings

Our main monthly meetings include presentations by leading computer hardware and software vendors to Melb PC members and their guests. Speakers have included industry giants such as Bill Gates, Philippe Kahn and Gordon Eubanks, as well as the CEOs and senior managers from major Australian and overseas vendors.

Members win software worth thousands of dollars at these meetings. The meeting provides an opportunity for attendees to ask questions and get to know your fellow members better. With hundreds of members attending, the meetings are great for exploring your fellow members' problem-solving skills.

SIGs

If big groups aren't for you, or if you have a special interest, Special Interest Groups (SIGs) may be your thing. A SIG can deal with any topic, from a particular application to hardware, programming, or how to get the best from your equipment. Check a current issue of *PC Update* for meeting dates, locations, contact information and information about future events.

Bulletin Board

For a different style of electronic communications our group operates a free multiline Bulletin Board System (BBS) on 9699 6611. (You can dial in with your modem using Windows HyperTerminal, supplied with Windows.) There are numerous Freeware and Shareware files available to download.

Members can use the BBS to send messages around the world (in message forums similar to Internet Newsgroups), or to other members. Realtime online chatting with other members is also available.

Reference and Software Libraries

Members can browse or borrow books and magazines. An extensive range of shareware and freeware programs are reviewed in *PC Update* and are available on disk from the shareware library.

Whether you are an individual, family or company, one thing is clear. If you want to get the most from your computing experience, a Melb PC membership is a must. □

An Opportunity to Have Your Say!

Member Survey — 2000

Please take a few moments to complete this **anonymous** PC Update survey. This is your group and magazine and you really can help make a difference. The statistical data gathered from this survey helps us to plan to meet your needs. Please answer all questions honestly, as they help to give us a better picture of the membership.

When answering questions about *PC Update* content, please remember that it must fit within 64 pages. It is not possible to have more of everything. More of something has to be balanced by less of something else. This survey is also available online, where you can fill it out from your browser. That saves a volunteer having to

key in the data — please use the online version if possible. If not, remove this middle section (or photocopy it), complete it and mail to the office:

Reply Paid Permit 261
Melb PC Surveys
PO Box 283,
South Melbourne,
VIC. 3205

or had deliver to the office at
27 Dorcas Street,
South Melbourne
during office hours.

The online version is at:
<http://www.melbpc.org.au/surveys/>

In this survey... ☐ Tick **one** only ☐ Tick all that apply

Membership

Question 1

How did you find out about the Melbourne PC User Group (Melb PC)? (*Tick one only*)

- ☐ PC Update
- ☐ Other magazine
- ☐ Home Page
- ☐ Melb PC BBS
- ☐ Training course
- ☐ Monthly meeting
- ☐ SIG meeting
- ☐ PC sales outlet
- ☐ Software manufacturer
- ☐ Hardware manufacturer
- ☐ Relative/Friend/Colleague
- ☐ Computer swap meet
- ☐ Stand at PC Show
- ☐ Advertisement
- ☐ Newspaper article
- ☐ Radio show
- ☐ TV show
- ☐ Educational institution

Question 2

What were the original reasons for you to join Melb PC? (*Tick all that apply*)

- ☐ Gift
- ☐ Bundled with PC
- ☐ PC Update
- ☐ Internet service
- ☐ User group BBS
- ☐ Training courses

- ☐ Monthly meeting
- ☐ SIG meeting
- ☐ Camaraderie
- ☐ To learn/get help

Question 3

Today, what are the reasons for you to REMAIN a member of Melb PC? (*Tick all that apply*)

- ☐ PC Update
- ☐ Internet service
- ☐ User group BBS
- ☐ Training courses
- ☐ Monthly meeting
- ☐ SIG meeting
- ☐ Camaraderie
- ☐ To learn/get help

Question 4

How would you describe your general computing proficiency (*as concerns your personal computing needs, not as compared to others*)? (*Tick one only*)

- ☐ Beginner
- ☐ Intermediate
- ☐ Advanced
- ☐ Expert

Question 5

Years since you first joined this UG (Say 1 if less than 1)

Question 6

How does the current user group membership fee (*not*

Internet service) represent value for money? (*Tick one only*)

- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Very Good
- ☐ Excellent

Additional comments

.....
.....
.....

Question 7

How does the current Internet service fee represent value for money? (*Tick one only*)

- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Very Good
- ☐ Excellent

Additional comments.....

.....
.....
.....

Question 8

Are you aware that if you recommend a NEW member to join the group, your membership period is extended by one month?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Question 9

Will you renew your membership? If not, explain in comments field.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't Know

Additional comments.....

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Usage of Services

Question 10

Which Melb PC services have you used IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS? (*Tick all that apply*)

- ☐ Blank floppy disk sales
- ☐ BBS files
- ☐ BBS messaging
- ☐ Dial Help
- ☐ First Aid Line
- ☐ Monthly Meetings
- ☐ SIG Meetings
- ☐ Shareware from Office
- ☐ Shareware at Monthly Meeting
- ☐ Book Library
- ☐ Internet Service
- ☐ Training Courses

Question 11

How often (days in a year) are you likely to visit Melb PC's premises in Dorcas St?

Question 12

To help us plan the best times for training courses please indicate all of the times that are convenient for you? *(Tick all that apply)*

- ☐ None
- ☐ Week days
- ☐ Week nights
- ☐ Saturday
- ☐ Sunday

Question 13

Which of the following training courses would you attend at Melb PC? *(Tick all that apply)*

- ☐ Not interested
- ☐ Database
- ☐ Word Processing
- ☐ Spreadsheet
- ☐ BBS
- ☐ Internet
- ☐ MS-DOS
- ☐ Windows 3.x
- ☐ Windows 95
- ☐ Windows 98
- ☐ Windows NT
- ☐ Windows 2000
- ☐ Linux
- ☐ UNIX
- ☐ OS/2
- ☐ Personal finance
- ☐ Business finance
- ☐ Personal productivity
- ☐ Graphics
- ☐ Computer Basics
- ☐ C++
- ☐ Virus protection

Question 14

Do you consider group prices for training courses: *(Tick one only)*

- ☐ Easily affordable
- ☐ Affordable
- ☐ Slightly out of reach
- ☐ Way out of reach

Additional comments

.....

.....

.....

E-Commerce

Question 15

Have you ever purchased goods or services over the Internet?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Question 16

Do you pay bills over the Internet?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Question 17

Do you trade shares over the Internet?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Policy

This section seeks your input on present and future policy.

Question 18

Is there a topic that ought to be covered by a Special Interest Group and is not?

.....

Question 19

If Melb PC were to buy or rent additional premises (to conduct meetings) in the suburbs, which localities suit you? *(Tick all that apply)*

- ☐ East
- ☐ South-East
- ☐ South
- ☐ South-West
- ☐ West
- ☐ North-West
- ☐ North
- ☐ North-East

Additional comments

.....

.....

.....

Question 20

What new services should the Group offer?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Demographics

Question 21

What is your age? *(Remember, this is an anonymous survey)*

Question 22

You are? ☐ Female ☐ Male

Question 23

Family pre-tax income in \$000, e.g. for \$53,000 enter 53. (Maximum value 500) *(remember, this is an anonymous survey).*

Question 24

In which industry do you work now? *(Tick one only)*

- ☐ Never worked
- ☐ None/Unemployed
- ☐ Retired
- ☐ Student
- ☐ Home duties
- ☐ Government
- ☐ Private Sector

Question 25

Approximately, how many people work in your organisation at all locations?

PC Update

Question 26

How many people (including yourself) read your copy of *PC Update*? (Max 50)

Question 27

Importance of *PC Update* to you as a component of UG membership, namely, is it the main or secondary reason to remain a member?

- ☐ Primary reason
- ☐ Secondary reason

Additional comments

.....

.....

.....

.....

Question 28

When do you discard each issue of *PC Update*? *(Tick one only)*

- ☐ Unread
- ☐ When read
- ☐ Within 3 months
- ☐ Within 6 months
- ☐ Undefined period
- ☐ Never

Question 29

What percentage of pages do you usually read?

 %

Question 30

Is the quality of layout of text, columns, use of colour, and images:

- ☐ Declining
- ☐ The same
- ☐ Improving

Attitlional Coments

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Question 31

Are the fonts:

- ☐ Too small
- ☐ Acceptable
- ☐ Just right

Additional comments

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Question 32

Is the quality of editing:

- ☐ Declining
- ☐ The same
- ☐ Improving

Additional comments

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Question 33

Likelihood of a *PC Update* review to influence your purchase decision compared to reviews in commercial publications: *(Tick one only)*

- ☐ Unlikely
- ☐ Less likely

- ☐ More likely
☐ Very likely
☐ Don't Know

Question 34

Likelihood of buying from a *PC Update* advertiser, compared to a non-advertiser, assuming everything else is identical: (*Tick one only*)

- ☐ Unlikely
☐ Less likely
☐ More likely
☐ Very likely
☐ Don't Know

Question 35

Check all other *Australian* computer magazines you read regularly, that is, two out of three issues. (*Tick all that apply*)

- ☐ Age (Tuesday)
☐ Age (Green Guide)
☐ Australian (Tuesday)
☐ Aust Personal Computer
☐ Aust Reseller News
☐ CAD User
☐ Communique
☐ Computer Reseller News
☐ Computerworld
☐ Desktop
☐ Digital Media World
☐ Electronics Australia
☐ Herald-Sun (Connect)
☐ Internet.au
☐ LAN Corporate IT
☐ NetGuide
☐ NT Magazine
☐ PC @uthority
☐ PC Buyer
☐ PC Gamer
☐ PC Magazine
☐ PC Power
☐ PC User
☐ PC Week
☐ PC World
☐ PowerPlay
☐ School PC
☐ Silicon Chip
☐ Windows Sources
☐ Your Computer
☐ Other (please specify).....

Coverage Desired in PC Update

Question 36

Business Computing

- ☐ None ☐ Less ☐ More

Question 37

Home Office

- ☐ None ☐ Less ☐ More

Question 38

BBS

- ☐ None ☐ Less ☐ More

Question 39

Internet - Web authoring

- ☐ None ☐ Less ☐ More

Question 40

Internet - Web surfing

- ☐ None ☐ Less ☐ More

Question 41

Internet - How To

- ☐ None ☐ Less ☐ More

Question 42

Computer Telephony

Integration

- ☐ None ☐ Less ☐ More

Question 43

Education

- ☐ None ☐ Less ☐ More

Question 44

Games

- ☐ None ☐ Less ☐ More

Question 45

Graphics

- ☐ None ☐ Less ☐ More

Question 46

Utilities

- ☐ None ☐ Less ☐ More

Question 47

Multimedia

- ☐ None ☐ Less ☐ More

Question 48

Windows 9x or ME

- ☐ None ☐ Less ☐ More

Question 49

Windows NT or 2000

- ☐ None ☐ Less ☐ More

Question 50

Unix/Linux/*ix

- ☐ None ☐ Less ☐ More

Question 51

BeOS

- ☐ None ☐ Less ☐ More

Question 52

Programming

- ☐ None ☐ Less ☐ More

Question 53

PC hardware

- ☐ None ☐ Less ☐ More

Question 54

PC accessories

- ☐ None ☐ Less ☐ More

Question 55

Laptops

- ☐ None ☐ Less ☐ More

Question 56

Palmtops

- ☐ None ☐ Less ☐ More

Question 57

New product news

- ☐ None ☐ Less ☐ More

Question 58

Melb PC news

- ☐ None ☐ Less ☐ More

Question 59

Committee minutes

- ☐ None ☐ Less ☐ More

Question 60

Other content desired:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Home PCs and Peripherals

Please note that we are asking about personal computers only.

Question 61

List all operating systems used on your home PCs: (*Tick all that apply*)

- ☐ Don't know
☐ DOS
☐ DOS+Windows 3.x
☐ Windows 95
☐ Windows 98
☐ Windows Millennium Ed

- ☐ Windows NT
☐ Windows 2000
☐ Linux
☐ OS/2
☐ Macintosh
☐ Other (please specify).....

Question 62

What is the speed of your main modem in bits per second? (*Tick one only*)

- ☐ No modem
☐ Don't know
☐ 14,400 or less
☐ 28,800
☐ 33,600
☐ 56,000 V.90
☐ 56,000 K56Flex
☐ 56,000 X2
☐ ISDN
☐ Cable - Optus
☐ Cable - Big Pond
☐ DSL

Question 63

Which of the following computer peripherals you own? (*Tick all that apply*)

- ☐ CD-ROM
☐ CD Writer
☐ CD-Rewritable
☐ Connection to mobile phone
☐ Connection to palmtop device
☐ Digital camera (portable)
☐ Digital camera (connected to PC)
☐ DVD (in PC)
☐ Graphics card (basic)
☐ Graphics card (special)
☐ Graphics tablet and stylus
☐ Handheld PC (Windows CE)
☐ Joystick - Standard, wired
☐ Joystick - Wireless
☐ Keyboard - Standard, wired
☐ Keyboard - Wireless
☐ Large capacity removable storage (e.g. Zip, Jaz)
☐ MIDI device
☐ Modem-External
☐ Modem-Internal
☐ Mouse - Standard
☐ 2-button, wired

- ☐ Mouse – Standard 3-button, wired
- ☐ Mouse – Microsoft Intellimouse/similar
- ☐ Mouse – Trackball
- ☐ Mouse – Wireless
- ☐ Movie card (full motion video)
- ☐ Network card
- ☐ PDA (e.g. PalmPilot, Newton)
- ☐ Pen Plotter
- ☐ Printer – Dot matrix
- ☐ Printer – Inkjet
- ☐ Printer – Label
- ☐ Printer – Laser
- ☐ Radio tuner card
- ☐ Scanner
- ☐ Sound Card (basic)
- ☐ Sound Card (special)
- ☐ Speakers
- ☐ Tape Drive
- ☐ Template Cutter
- ☐ TV tuner card
- ☐ Uninterruptible power supply
- ☐ Other (please specify).....

Question 64

Which of the following do you intend to buy in the next 6 months? *(Tick all that apply)*

- ☐ CD-ROM
- ☐ CD Writer
- ☐ CD-Rewritable
- ☐ Connection to mobile phone
- ☐ Connection to palmtop device
- ☐ Digital camera (portable)
- ☐ Digital camera (connected to PC)
- ☐ DVD (in PC)
- ☐ Graphics card (basic)
- ☐ Graphics card (special)
- ☐ Graphics tablet and stylus
- ☐ Handheld PC (Windows CE)
- ☐ Joystick – Standard, wired
- ☐ Joystick – Wireless
- ☐ Keyboard – Standard, wired

- ☐ Keyboard – Wireless
- ☐ Large capacity removable storage (e.g. Zip, Jaz)
- ☐ Memory (RAM)
- ☐ MIDI device
- ☐ Modem-External
- ☐ Modem-Internal
- ☐ Mouse – Standard 2-button, wired
- ☐ Mouse – Standard 3-button, wired
- ☐ Mouse – Microsoft Intellimouse/similar
- ☐ Mouse – Trackball
- ☐ Mouse – Wireless
- ☐ Movie card (full motion video)
- ☐ Network card
- ☐ PDA (e.g. PalmPilot, Newton)
- ☐ Pen Plotter
- ☐ Printer – Dot matrix
- ☐ Printer – Inkjet
- ☐ Printer – Label
- ☐ Printer – Laser
- ☐ Radio tuner card
- ☐ Scanner
- ☐ Sound Card (basic)
- ☐ Sound Card (special)
- ☐ Speakers
- ☐ Tape Drive
- ☐ Template Cutter
- ☐ TV tuner card
- ☐ Uninterruptible power supply
- ☐ Other (please specify).....

Question 65

In the past 12 months, how much (in \$000) did you spend on hardware, including consumables? (e.g. for \$3500 enter value as 3.5)

Question 66

In the past 12 months, how much (in \$000) did you spend on software? (e.g. for \$400 enter value as 0.4)

Work Environment

If you do not work now (includes voluntary work), do not answer any more questions. Thank you.

Question 67

Where does your organisation mainly buy its desktop computers? (Dell and Gateway are examples of Direct vendors) *(Tick one only)*

- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Direct vendor
- ☐ System integrator
- ☐ Value-added reseller
- ☐ PC reseller
- ☐ Department store
- ☐ Swap meet
- ☐ Other (please specify).....

Question 68

Where does your organisation mainly buy its network servers? (Dell and Gateway are examples of Direct vendors) *(Tick one only)*

- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Direct vendor
- ☐ System integrator
- ☐ Value-added reseller
- ☐ PC reseller
- ☐ Department store
- ☐ Swap meet
- ☐ Other (please specify).....

Question 69

Where does your organisation mainly buy its PC software? *(Tick one only)*

- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Mail order
- ☐ System integrator
- ☐ Value-added reseller
- ☐ PC reseller
- ☐ Department store
- ☐ Swap meet

- ☐ Other (please specify).....

Question 70

What is your level of influence over computing purchases at work?

- ☐ None
- ☐ Suggest
- ☐ Recommend
- ☐ Decide
- ☐ Approve

Question 71

What is the annual value (in \$000) of the PC-related hardware expenditure that you influence? (e.g. for \$50,000 enter 50)

Question 72

What is the annual value (in \$000) of the PC-related software expenditure that you influence? (e.g. for \$30,000 enter 30)

Question 73

How much will your organisation spend (in \$000) on computing goods and services over the next fiscal year? (e.g. for \$1,000,000 enter 1000)

Thank you!

Post to:

Reply Paid Permit 261
Melb PC Surveys
PO Box 283
South Melbourne
VIC. 3205

or, hand deliver to the
office at 27 Dorcas Street,
South Melbourne.

Melbourne PC User Group Inc.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Ref: PCU0900

Membership Type

☐ **I Individual** **F Family**
S Student **C Corporate**
B Pensioner

Membership Number

Renewals Only

Title **Mr., Mrs., Ms., Miss etc**

This form may be photocopied
to avoid damaging your PC Update

First Name **Initial** **Last Name**

Use the spaces below for additional family or corporate names.

Address

Suburb **State** **Post Code** **B/H Phone**

Job Title **A/H Phone** **Employer**

Additional Family or Corporate Members only

Title	First Name	Initial	Last Name	B/H Phone
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

I hereby apply for membership of Melbourne PC User Group Inc (A0003293V)
and agree to abide by its rules while I am a member.

Signature **Date**

I do ☐ do not ☐ wish
to receive occasional promotional mail from commercial organisations.

How did you learn about Melb PC? Please complete.

PC Update ☐ **Swap Meet** ☐ **Friend** ☐ **Other**

Introduced by a Melb PC member

Member Name

Membership Number

Payment Details / Credit Card Authority

**Forward to: Melb PC, PO Box 283,
South Melbourne VIC 3205, Australia.**

Cheque ☐ **Debit Card** ☐ **Credit Card** ☐ **Amount \$**

Cheques payable to Melbourne PC User Group Inc (A0003293V)

Bankcard ☐ **Visa** ☐ **Mastercard** ☐ **Expiry**

Name on Card

Signature **Date**

Summary

Type	Number	New (Tick)	Renewal (Tick)	Amount
Individual	1	\$66	\$55	\$
Additional Family members at \$10 each	<input type="text"/>	\$10	\$10	\$
Corporate	1	\$143	\$132	\$
One membership is two representatives				
Additional Corporate members at \$66 each	<input type="text"/>	\$66	\$66	\$
Student	1	\$55	\$44	\$
or (See notes below)				
Pensioner	1	\$55	\$44	\$
TOTAL				\$

Notes:

- Students must attach a photocopy of student card or a letter from their educational Institution confirming full-time student status.
- Pensioners must attach a photocopy of both sides of their Pension Concession Card.
- Corporate members may change representatives by giving notice in writing to The Secretary.

Shareware Order Form

These are some of the most popular volumes in the Melb PC Shareware/Freeware library. Refer to the regular catalogue updates in PC Update for up-to-date listings of other disks. Use the blank section of this form for your choice from those listings.

Shareware/PD Title	Melb No.	Qty.	Amount
Shareware catalogue & New Member Disk	0000		
Graphics Workshop for DOS	8015		
Graphics Workshop for Windows 3.x	8064		
Graphics Workshop for Windows 95	8562		
Growit	8157		
List	1490		
McAfee VirusScan for DOS	8018		
McAfee VirusScan for Windows 3.x(3-disk set)	8897-8899		
McAfee VirusScan for Windows 95 (4-disk set)	8893-8896		
MS-DOS 6.22 Stepup from 6.0 (3-disk set)	8110-8112		
PKZip/PKUnzip	1235		
Real Audio Player for Windows 3.x	8364		
Real Audio Player for Windows 95	8592		
Telix for DOS	8062		
Telix for Windows v1.00 (2-disk set)	8129-8130		
Wolfenstein Fights Street Fighter II	8012		
Melb PC Internet kit (special price)			
Windows 3.x @ \$10 per set (3-disk set)	8711-8713		
Melb PC Internet Setup Master (Win 95/98)	9192		
Postage/Packing is included. Costs: first disk (per order) \$5, second disk \$4, third and subsequent disks \$3 each	TOTAL		

Training Order Form

Course Title	Starting Date	Amount
For Shareware and Training, use the remittance form on the back of this page		TOTAL

Do Your Friend a Big Favour

Ray Beatty

You're growing or you're shrinking. There's no such thing as standing still. This is the message in business and marketing, and it applies equally to our own joint enterprise: Melbourne PC User Group Incorporated.

We are all in it together: you, me, George and the Committee, Gary and the magazine. All partners in this enterprise which has been so successful to date — one of the most successful in the world — but which is always in danger of slowing down.

Inserted into this issue of your magazine, you'll find our new Melb PC recruitment brochure. We haven't sent it to you to be admired. You have it, to use it. We want you to pass it to someone who can make use of it and join the group. It might be a work colleague, a relative, the man in the local computer shop, the neighbour who has just asked your advice on a new computer. Rack your brains and you will find someone who could really use a Melb PC membership.

Take a look at the brochure. You'll see it's very different from the ones we've used in the past. This is actually an ad, and stresses the benefits you'd find from membership. "You need a friend who knows computers" — think back to when you first bought a computer. The excitement, the promise and the disappointment when programs would not do what you wanted, when the error messages started to hit, or the first time you lost a file containing a whole night's work. This brochure is designed to reach those newcomers and offer them hope. Here's a place where they can get help.

Notice that the man on the cover is young. Because we need to make this club younger, recruit more members in their 20s and 30s. Inside it talks about all the club has to offer: dial help, beginners' courses, training courses, the Internet, discussion areas and the bulletin board, SIGs, the monthly meeting, and this magazine. You get an awful lot for your money, and in here there is something for everyone.

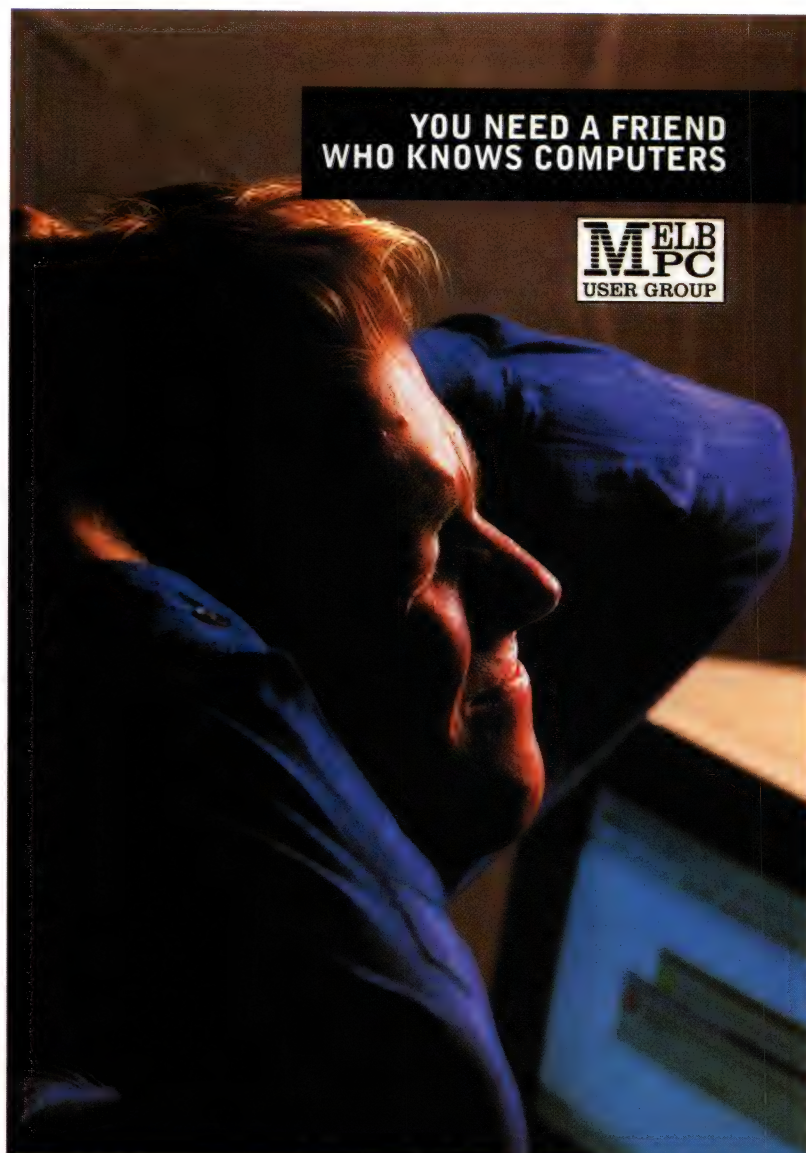
The application form has been simplified so you have to enter the minimum number of

answers according to what you want. Help your friend through it. Read the instructions with them — it's all there in black and white. They can join just for the benefits of being part of the group, or for the Internet as well. They can bring in extra family members or even their company. And they can pay for it simply, through a credit card number.

By now you'd have to be just returned from the moon, not to know that we have the best ISP in the state. And the second best in the country. So when they come to Melb PC they

are not buying into some shambling bunch of amateurs. They are joining an organisation that is highly professional in its standards and services. And which offers them one of the best value-for-money packages that they could find anywhere in the world.

So we're not asking you to shake collection tins. We're asking you to pick up the brochure and use it to offer a friend a fantastic opportunity to join you in your organisation. An organisation of which you have every right to be extremely proud. □



Downloading Files/Programs from the Internet

There are literally millions of files available for download from the Internet — new programs, essential upgrades and patches for programs, virus upgrades, games, music and sound files, etc. Luckily the means of downloading all these type of files is basically the same, and almost all can be done through your browser program. Most modern browsers support File Transfer Protocol (FTP) and so permit direct file loads from external sites without the need for a specialised program.

Unfortunately when talking about downloading, several other aspects of computer usage become involved, and without the knowledge of their meaning the whole exercise can be lost. Please be patient as it is necessary to digress from the main subject.

The first need is for a short explanation of the types of files you would normally download, and just as it is always important to add the correct suffix to a files you create, it is important to always look at the suffix of files you download.

Before you start — don't download everything you see just for the sake of downloading. Too often some of our members find their PCs have started to slow down as a result of installing all the material they find on those "free" CD-ROMs that come with most commercial magazines — "just to see what they would do" — be aware that many of them are only *demo* copies and may be of limited value.

Another warning is that some of the "faster download" software currently available can monitor and record what files you download and pass on this information without your knowledge.

EXE and ZIP Files

Although most current CD-ROMs have an *auto-start* file that is detected by Windows and runs automatically when you load the CD-ROM, often when installing new software from a diskette or CD-ROM the instructions will tell you to: Start | Run D:\Setup.exe. The program SETUP.EXE is an *executable* program (identified by the .EXE suffix) and in this particular instance it is



Stan Johnstone

written specifically to correctly install the software onto your PC. The software itself (*not the install program*) may consist of any number of files of different types contained on the source disk, and during installation these files will be developed and installed in the required folders.

As an example, the executable file (*program*) that runs Internet Explorer is named IEXPLORE.EXE, and is generally found in the C:\Program Files\Internet Explorer folder.

Taking the analogy further of a diskette or CD-ROM containing several different files, a similar approach is used for files available for download. All the files that comprise a new piece of software can be

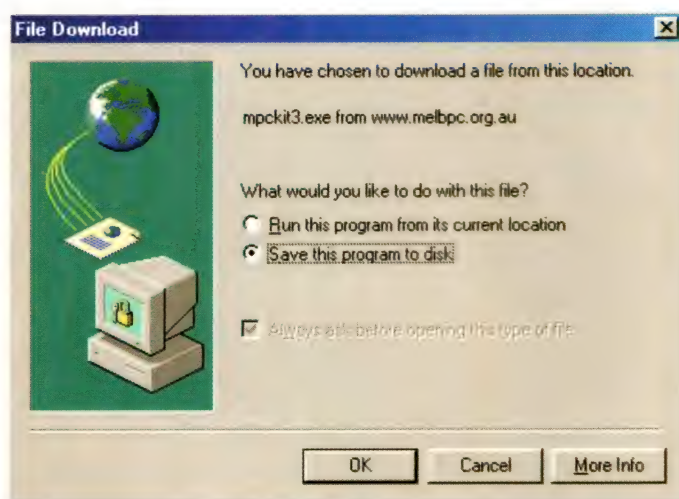


Figure 1. The File Download window.

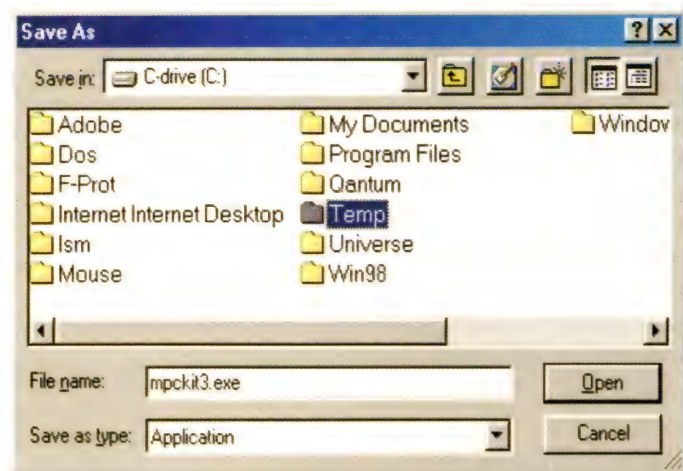


Figure 2. The Save As window

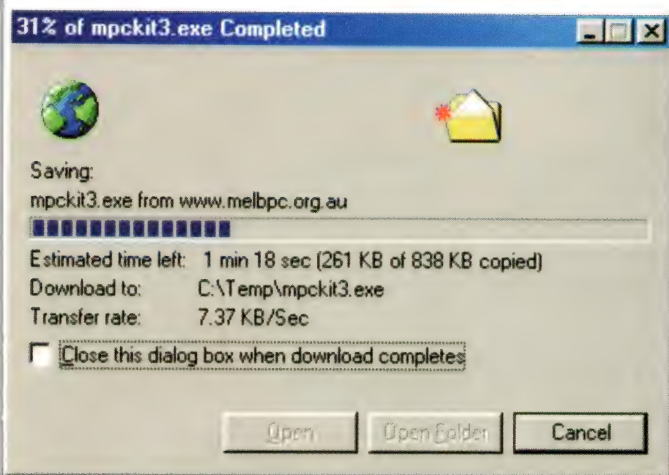


Figure 3. The download window showing progress.

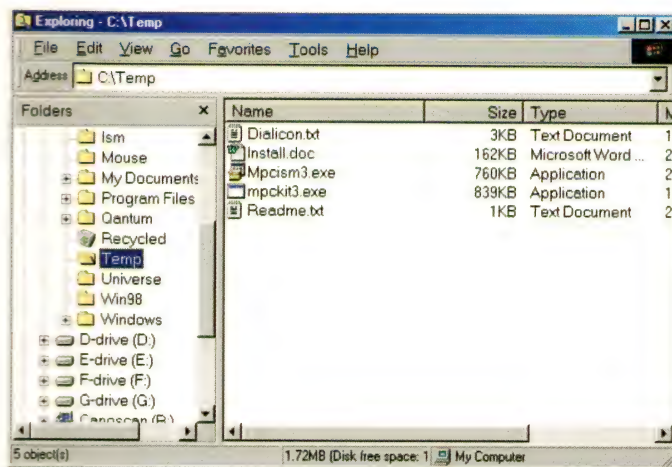


Figure 4. Explorer listing of original and extracted files

collected together, and then compressed (or “zipped up”) into one file, frequently with the suffix .ZIP. This has the combined advantage that all component files are collected together, and using compression techniques, reducing the size of the file to less than the sum of the individual file sizes. Naturally the smaller the file, the faster it will download. We will cover ZIP files and how to deal with them later.

Self-extracting Executable Files

Another technique used to transfer “zipped files” is to convert the ZIP into a self-extracting executable file. These files also have the .EXE suffix and are opened using the Start | Run command, or alternatively by double-clicking on the file using Windows Explorer. This

executable program file will open itself and copy all the component files into the same folder without the need for a separate extraction program.

An example of this type of file is the MPCKIT3.EXE (the Melb PC Internet configuration kit) which can be downloaded using your browser program and entering the address <http://www.melbpc.org.au/help/mpckit3.exe>.

This self-extracting program contains the configuration program MPCISM3.EXE together with an explanatory README.TXT file and two other text files. A “README.TXT” or similarly named file is almost always included to explain the steps necessary for completing an installation.

Prior to Download

Before suggesting sites from which to download, perhaps a simple exercise would be to download the MPCKIT3 mentioned above, as the same principles will apply.

My preference is to create a folder C:\TEMP (others prefer C:\DOWNLOAD) and always use that folder when downloading — it’s easy to remember and it will save later searching. Normally you will find a folder C:\WINDOWS\TEMP on your PC, quite often with some sub-folders. These sub-folders are used by the system during the installation of software and although the contents are intended to be deleted afterwards, or should be, remnants can sometimes be found.

computing, networking & electronics

NMIT is offering day and evening programs commencing early October for those wishing to gain skills to obtain employment in the computing environment.

CERTIFICATE COURSES

- Certificate in Information Processing - Windows Environment
- Certificate in Information Management - Database
- CISCO Network Associate Training
- Certificate in Animation & Multi-Media Production
- Intro to Macromedia Software for WWW Site Development

Modules of Certificates can be completed independently.

For further information contact (03) 9269 1481

Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE



- Certificate in Information Processing - Advanced MS Office
- Windows NT V4 Server
- Certificate in Computer Trouble Shooting & Assembly
- Certificate in 3D Animation using 3D Studio Max
- Fundamentals of Character Animation

Enrolments (03) 9269 1483



It is usually quite safe to delete these files. However to minimise confusion and avoid potential disaster resulting from the deletion of files that may still be required, I recommend the use of a unique folder such as C:\TEMP or C:\DOWNLOAD.

For those not familiar with creating a new folder, simply right-click the Start button, click on Explore, click and highlight the (C:) main folder, then click on File|New|Folder and enter a name for the new folder which is temporarily named "New Folder". Other experienced users will know how to create a new folder from the Browse situation.

The Actual Download

The next steps are very straightforward. Using the file mentioned above for practice, simply enter the following address in your browser:

<http://www.melbpc.org.au/help/mpckit3.exe>.

After pressing Enter, the File Download window opens (Figure 1) and with the radio button select Save This Program To Disk, then click OK. Immediately the Save As window opens (Figure 2). After selecting the folder you wish to download to, click Open and the download will commence with its progress indicated as shown in Figure 3. On completion it is best to click Close rather than Open which is another option. The reason for this is that most installation programs suggest you close all other Windows programs before commencing.

The next step in this particular exercise would be to go to Start|Run and

browse to C:\TEMP\MPCKIT3.EXE which would open up all the component files — the folder listing (Figure 4) shows the original downloaded file and the four extracted files. If we were to continue with the configuration as these files are intended to do, the next step would be to run the (executable) application MPCISM.EXE in a similar manner. If you did download this file I would suggest you might keep it anyway, and use it should the need arise to configure your Internet software for Melb PC in the future.

Winzip and Shareware

There are many decompression programs available to open compressed files, however the most popular is Winzip which is readily available for downloading from the Internet, it also can be purchased from the Melb PC Shareware library on diskette [MELB 9303], or obtained from one of those innocuous CD-ROMs mentioned above. Winzip is a Shareware program that may be used immediately. However, once you have used it and are satisfied with it you are obliged (*and encouraged*) to do the right thing and complete the purchase. Winzip can be registered for the nominal amount of US\$29.00. As with all Shareware material, read the licence agreement when installing. Sorry, another necessary digression.

The best site for Melb PC subscribers to download Winzip v8 is <http://tucows.netspace.net.au/>. Do a search for "Winzip" and once located, simply click the Download button. This site is part of Melb PC's peering network and will

provide the fastest download. However, you could go to Winzip's home site at <http://www.winzip.com>. This would entail a slower transfer from the overseas site; a search and download from a local site is always preferable. The current version is WINZIP80.EXE.

Having downloaded this file, the next step is to install it in the same manner as described earlier, responding to prompts when asked. From now on, life becomes even easier.

Now when using Explorer, any files that Winzip is able to open will have a "G-Clamp" icon shown just to the left of the file (Figure 5). A simple double-click causes the component files to be displayed just as they are in Explorer (Figure 6), and a double-click on any of these files will enable them to be opened. For example clicking on README.TXT will enable you to read the contents of that file without having to first extract it, and simply clicking on the SETUP.EXE file will initiate the installation of the program. What could be simpler?

If the contents of the ZIP file contained a number of document, image, sound or other types of files that you wanted to store in a particular folder, these could be uncompressed and moved using the Extract button.

By the way — Winzip can also be used in reverse — to *compress* files into a ZIP that can be attached to e-mail, etc. This is of particular advantage if you are sending large image (eg. BMP) files. ZIP compression often greatly reduces the file size and bitmaps can be reduced to as little as 5% of the original size.

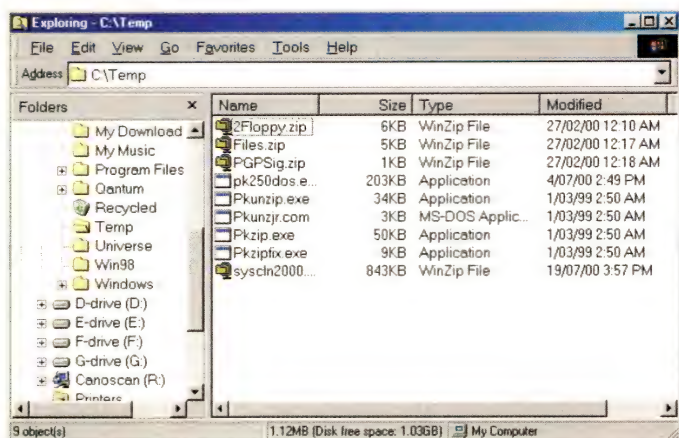


Figure 5. The "G-Clamp" icon shown against compressed files.

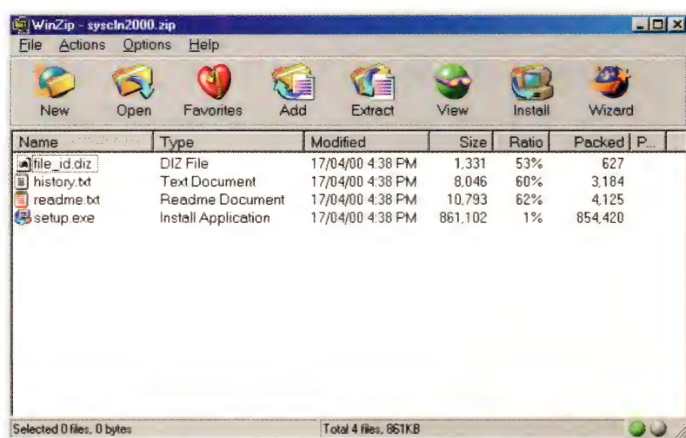


Figure 6. A Winzip listing of a files contents

From Where To Download?

For the latest patches and upgrades for your Microsoft products <http://www.microsoft.com> would be the obvious starting point, and then following the various links you would be redirected to an address that provided the material you seek. Likewise for any software or hardware product, the manufacturer's home site is often the best place to start.

Melb PC Online also has several thousand files that are updated and due to some space limitations are regularly turned over. There is a direct access to these files from the Useful Links panel on the Melb PC Home Page, or by pointing your browser to <http://online.melbpc.org.au/>

Shareware programs are generally available from many sites and many of the commercial computer magazines will list a range of software available for download; you will find that you gradually build up a list of favourite sites to search for what you need. The largest shareware site is at <http://www.shareware.com> where you can use their search facilities to identify a filename. When clicking on a file to commence a download from the site, a fresh window is opened with a list of sites that have the program available (Figure 7). In this case it can be seen there are three sites in Australia that have the file you are interested in, together with a guide to their reliability. Again a click on the preferred site and the file commences to download from that site — obviously downloading from a site in Australia should prove much faster than retrieving it from an original site located overseas.

While at the Shareware.com site you can leave your e-mail address for regular newsletters to be sent listing new and upgraded software available for download. Many other sites offer a similar service.

The documentation for your anti-virus program will advise you of the site to download signature upgrades, and if this address cannot be accessed through the program, the site should be book-marked to enable frequent upgrades.

Enthusiasts of games, music and other popular themes will know or find the addresses where to obtain the material they enjoy, and downloading can be simple and easy.

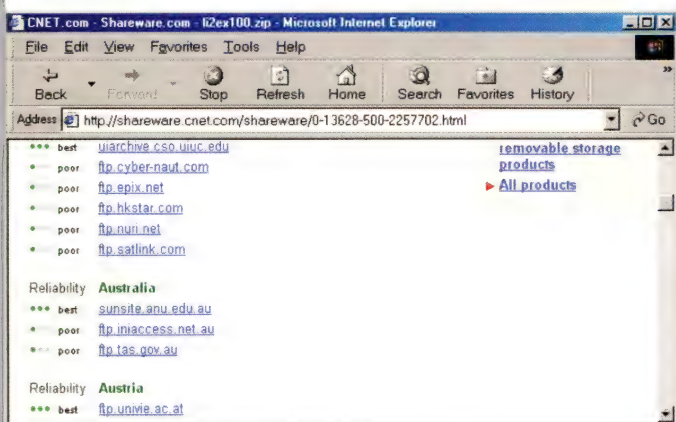


Figure 7. Shareware.com offering a selection of sites.

Some Final Suggestions

Don't just sit there waiting for a file to download. Thanks to multi-tasking you can keep browsing away, sending and receiving e-mail while the download continues in the background, although do remember your connection is being shared — some activities may not be as responsive as usual.

Some overseas sites will have wide variations in download speed at different times of the day. Just as we have peak periods between 4.00 pm and midnight, the remote site is possibly under the same heavy loading to meet demands from users connecting at their local peak times. You need to think globally.

Summing Up

- obtain a copy of Winzip, it will be one of the handiest programs on your system
- be able to recognise file types so you will know what can be done with them
- always seek out the nearest (and probably) fastest source
- starting a download is as simple as clicking on a link, or that button labelled "Download Now"
- think about time differences at busy sites
- and finally — don't clutter your PC with software you don't need! □

Give your old PC a new lease on life !!

Upgrading your PC is a cost effective way of extending its life. If you find it slow, its running out of disk space, or you need better multi-media performance - We are the people to talk to ! We have been upgrading PCs since 1991.

Our upgrades are (about) 1/3 the cost of a new computer, fully installed. (Motherboard, processor, cooling fan, 64Mb RAM, 4Mb AGP Video card). Bring in your PC for a free quote.

For more info about us: www.baypc.com.au/pcu

We also do....

- Monitor repairs
- Printer Repairs
- PC Repairs
- Computer networks for small business

Bayside PC

96 Nepean Highway
Mentone. 3194.
Tel. (03) 9585 1645
Fax. (03) 9585 1583

Training Schedule — September and October 2000

Ian Rankin, Training Coordinator

Application Courses

Quicken for Small Business \$264

Viv Martin

Four 3-hour sessions

6.30 pm – 9.30 pm

Tuesday 5, 12, 19, 26

September

Bookkeeping, record keeping, producing reports for accountants using Quicken or Quicken for Business.

Prerequisites: Basic

Windows experience assumed.

Ideally, ownership of the latest

Australianised version of

Quicken for Windows.

Intermediate PowerPoint \$95.70

Caroline Houston

One 3-hour session

6.30 pm – 9.30 pm

Wednesday 13 September.

This course gives a more in-depth perspective to creating presentations using enhanced graphics and special transformations from slide to slide. Students will create presentations that can be given as on screen shows or printed for use in an overhead projector. This course is a must in preparation for your next meeting/conference delivery.

Prerequisites: Familiarity with the Windows 95/98 Operating System including Mouse and Keyboard skills. This course also assumes familiarity with PowerPoint in creating basic slides and basic graphics or attendance at the introduction course.

Advanced Access 8/97 \$227.70

Peter Fallon

Three 3-hour sessions

6.30 pm – 9.30 pm

Tuesday 17, 24, 31 October.

This course builds on a solid

working knowledge of the product, and teaches you to how to perform many complex and advanced database operations and solve technical problems. At the completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- *Build complex queries that link multiple tables and perform calculations*
- *Create Macros and forms for automating operations, and build a fully automated application*
- *Have a better understanding of how Forms and controls operate in Access 97*
- *Look at the new advanced features of Access 97*
- *Create Visual Basic for Applications modules.*
- *Understand where macros and VBA programs should be used, and the requirements/limitations of each.*
- *A Brief look at Access in context: Development in Office 97 and Visual Basic 5.0.*

A hands-on approach is used in this course. Exercises are provided, but attendees are reminded that they will get more out of the course if they ask questions and discuss the problems they are currently trying to solve.

Prerequisites: A solid working knowledge of Access 97 is essential. Importantly, a demonstrated knowledge and understanding of Microsoft Windows 95 is required. Basic Windows features (use of menus, use of mouse) will **not** be covered.

Internet Courses

Note: If you are starting with minimal knowledge, we suggest that the Internet courses are best attended in the sequence shown. More advanced students should attend at their skill level.

Introduction to the Internet \$77

Lynn Pollock

One 3-hour session

9.00 am – 12 noon

Saturday 7th October.

An overview of the Melb PC Internet service. Live demonstrations/explanations of the major programs that are used on the Internet. Full detailed discussion of the hardware and software items involved, including modems. General questions concerning Internet connections.

Prerequisites: None.

See also: File management, archiving and compression techniques.

Using the Internet with Windows 95/98 \$143

Lynn Pollock

One 6-hour session

9.00 am – 4.00 pm

Sunday 3 September

This is the basic course for Windows 95/98 users. It suits people about to install Internet software on Windows 95/98 or novice Internet users who want a full explanation of the basic setup and techniques involved. Hands-on individual installation of 32-bit Internet software. Explanation, discussion and live Internet connections for students to demonstrate and practice all the major components.

Prerequisites: Windows 95/98 experience.

Internet — Using Web Browsers \$99.00

Lynn Pollock

One 4 hour session

1.00 pm – 5.00 pm

Saturday 7 October.

Learning Outcomes

Evaluation, discussion and exploration of all the features to be found in the latest versions of the major Browsers, Netscape and Internet Explorer. Full understanding of Browser techniques such as Searching for Information and off-line usage of the Browser in reviewing retrieved Information.

Course Topics

Students will learn the following:

How to install and configure the latest Netscape and MS Internet Explorer Browsers and understand the various Tips & Tricks with their usage.

How to “find or locate” information on the Web and refine the searching techniques with various “search engines”

How to save information (including the pictures) from pages that they have visited for later printout or further reading.

Addition items such as cache management tools and their uses, general management of bookmarks (favourites), helper applications and proxy servers.

Students will have live Internet connections at their individual PCs to practice their browser skills and searching techniques.

Prerequisites: Familiarity with your Computer's Operating system. The Student should have attended the basic Internet Course or have a reasonable Internet understanding. It is recommended that they have at least 3 months experience before attending this course. Note: This is an Advanced level course.

Web Page Design \$225.50

John Morris Jnr.
Three 3-hour sessions
6.30 pm – 9.30 pm
Thursday 31 August
7, 14 September
6.30 pm – 9.30 pm
Thursday 12, 19, 26 October

Students will learn how to write Web pages for the World Wide Web. This includes HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) basics, use of HTML editors, both text and WYSIWYG. Students will gradually be introduced into the inner workings of HTML, learning how to write simple Web pages then progress to more complex features such as using tables, frames, embedding sound files, incorporating public domain JAVA applets, how to create online slide shows and more. The course will cover such issues as features of good Web page design, FTP uploading issues and obtaining free material from the Net. Students will also learn about and will look at directory structures in HTML and file uploading with FTP.

Prerequisites: Preferably, students should be familiar with the Internet, using a Web Browser, have some basic word editing skills and be familiar with Windows.

Operating System and Hardware Courses

How to Buy a Computer Free

Ian Rankin
One 3-hour session
6.30 pm – 9.30 pm
Thursday 20 September
6.30 pm – 9.30 pm
Thursday 10 October

What a computer does, what the jargon means, buying advice, tips and traps, no sales talk.

Prerequisites: None.

Hardware Upgrade and Repairs \$132

Tom Coleman
One 6-hour session
10.00 am – 5.00 pm
Sunday 24 September
Two 3-hour sessions
6.30 pm – 9.30 pm
Wednesday 18, 25 October

Students will be able to dismantle and reassemble a computer, replace major components. Be aware of the basic rules and conventions of computer building. Know enough to get started on simple jobs.

Prerequisites: Familiarity with the basic functions of each of a computer's parts.

Introduction to Linux \$154

Len Krois
One 6-hour session

9.00 am – 4.00 pm
Saturday 14 October

On completion of the course, participants will have a general feel for the processes of Linux installation, some knowledge of administration and security and an appreciation for the look and feel of the basic Linux command line interface. With this knowledge of the basic navigation and file manipulation commands as well as the online manual pages, participants will be well placed to explore further in the open systems arena.

Prerequisites: Designed for members seeking basic Linux skills. There are no specific prerequisites – members comfortable with command line computing would benefit more.

Materials: The revised edition Linux pocketbook from APC including CD-ROMs containing Red Hat & Caldera OpenLinux implementations of Linux. Notes are provided on a diskette containing some good training resources obtained from the Internet. Students should bring their own pens and paper for additional notes.

Introduction to Windows 98 \$293.70

Len Krois
Two 6-hour sessions or
four 3-hour sessions

9.00 am – 4.00 pm Saturday
& Sunday 9, 10 September
This course is for beginners and intermediate students. It introduces the Windows 98 environment to the computer novice. You'll get to know your computer, how to use it productively and the skills you'll need to use Microsoft Windows effectively.

Materials: A comprehensive manual is provided and it is recommended that students bring their own pens and paper for additional notes.

Prerequisites: None.

However, you will be at an advantage if you have had some exposure to computers and used a mouse.

Advanced Windows 95/98 \$143

Lynn Pollock
One 6-hour session
9.00 am – 4.00 pm
Saturday 2 September
9.00 am – 4.00 pm
Sunday 8 October
A full and detailed examination of Windows 95 for experienced users. Topics include adding hardware, registry control and editing, backup techniques, communications, networking with Windows 95, conflict resolution, enhancing performance, system maintenance and many tips and tricks.

Prerequisites: Must be familiar with Windows 95.

TRAINING INFORMATION BOX

Where Are Courses Held?

At the Group's premises, usually in the Training Room, but check when you arrive.

The address is:
27 Dorcas Street,
(Cnr. Wells Street),
South Melbourne
VIC 3205

How Do I Get There?

Usually plenty of parking is available nearby in the evenings

and on weekends, or catch a tram to the corner of St. Kilda Road and Dorcas Street. After hours entrance is through the car park at the rear of the building.

Important!

You will obtain greater benefit from a course if you have the skills recommended by Trainers as prerequisites for their courses. Otherwise, you may not be able to keep up with the class practical sessions.

How Do I Book A Course?

Please use the order form in this magazine or (for credit cards only) phone or fax the office on 9699 6222 during business hours.

Early enrolment is advised as places are limited. Enrolments/bookings without payment will **not** be accepted.

I Have Something To Say!

You can contact Training with suggestions for courses or other training related matters by sending an e-mail to Ian Rankin at irankin@melbpc.org.au

Do You Run Courses Upon Request?

Some courses are available upon request but are subject to minimum numbers. Please contact the office for details.

The Lagrange Points

Part 3

From the Moon to L4



Ken Holmes

When colonies are established on the moon and at L4, there may well be traffic between them for freight and passengers. Perhaps your frequent flyer points will get you the three leg round trip, or metals may be refined on the moon for manufacture of components to extend the L4 structure. There will be the same trade-off between journey time and fuel consumption as with freight by sea and passengers by air. Passengers may not

wish to spend more than a few days; this would entail greater fuel burns to get greater transit speed and more fuel would be needed on approach to L4 to wash off the excess energy. With freight it will be desirable to conserve fuel by working with the gravity field, but this could entail times of a month or two. Planning to conserve fuel is the more challenging mode so, naturally, that's the way we'll go. We will learn more, just as you do sailing a boat rather than

using a motor. Fig 4 reminds us of the contours of the Potential Energy field of the moon's (flared cone) gravity well, sitting on the side of the earth's ditto. Near L4 is a (dynamically) flattish area where we wish to arrive with exactly the right energy to avoid an overshoot. We would like to burn all our fuel at launch and coast to L4, but this is trickier than

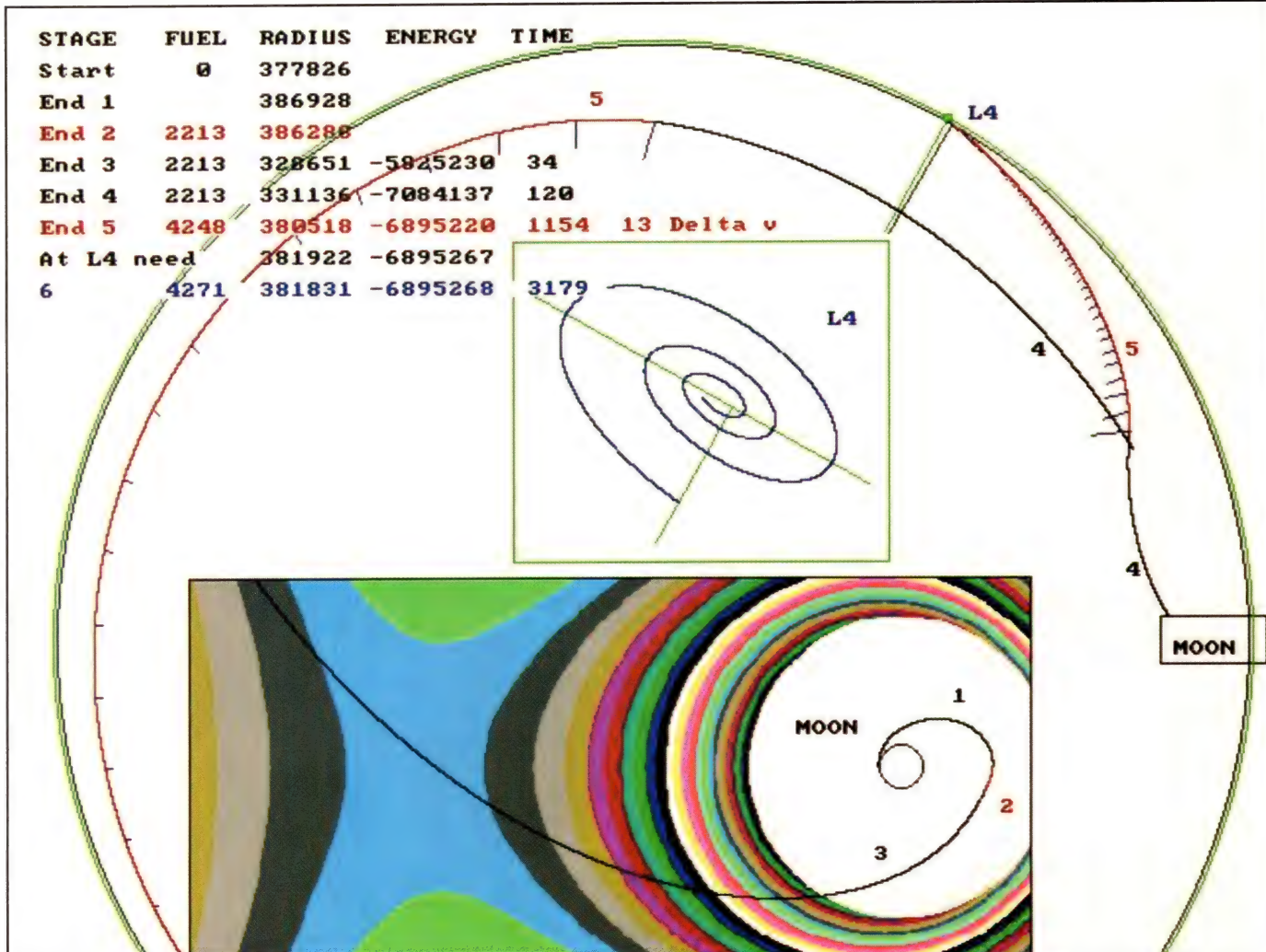


Figure 4.

your average mini-golf shot; in fact it is impossible and we will need to do correction burns along the way. There is no friction or resistance in space to dispose of energy and ease up to our destination; it needs fuel to slow down.

As we need to get 60 degrees ahead of the moon, our experience with L1 bodies in Part 1 suggests we should try for a smaller orbit of the earth with a shorter period, in effect taking a short cut to get ahead of the moon. Perhaps also it may be more economical to slip over the saddle-shaped lower lip of the moon's well towards the earth so as to need to acquire the least Total Energy.

Let's Launch

We will assume the launch site to be at the centre of the moon's face towards earth and the direction will be towards L4 to give a clockwise moon orbit — as viewed from the North Star or on Fig 4. All moon orbits are in this direction; when the Apollos arrived, they went in front of the moon which slowed them so that they needed less fuel in a deceleration burn on the far side to get into orbit. On leaving, an acceleration burn on the far side from a similar orbit sent them towards earth. We will assume our freight ship has been launched, whether vertically or along a launch ramp, and has a horizontal speed relative to the moon of 3330 km/hr, 2km above the surface. Since the moon is travelling at 3670 km/hr along its orbit, the body is actually moving at 7000 km/hr relative to earth. It needs this latter speed to be 6050 km/hr for a close moon orbit of 1.8 hrs duration but we wish to get the apolune well out on the far side. Apollos had to fire near the centre of the far side, as do we, but a little later to send us on a suitable orbit rather than directly towards earth; the amount of fuel and the direction of thrust are the result of a great deal of trial and much error to get something to work. Arrays of programs, varying all parameters, could doubtless optimise this whole program.

The Trip

We see stages 1 (a half orbit), 2 (burn) and 3 (coasting) in the moon inset and stage 4 (still coasting) is on the big picture where both absolute position

and position relative to the moon are plotted in black. The absolute orbit is highly eccentric and, if allowed to coast, the body would move out across the moon's path and slow down, possibly being recaptured by it. In stage 5, plotted in red, we institute a control scheme of burns to apply critical velocity damping in the radial direction to prevent it going outside the L4 orbit. If it does, when we are trying not to exceed L4 Total Energy, then larger radius means higher Potential Energy which means lower Kinetic Energy which means lower speed than L4 speed, so that we won't catch it unless we burn more fuel. We have deserted the continuous correction as impractical and use here firings at 12 hour intervals. You may note that the first thrust lines are large to get radial velocity under control and then fall off rapidly. In practice, firings would be individually calculated and would occur only on a few occasions with carefully chosen timings.

The moon is still tugging backwards so we now need to start feeding in forward thrust components to ensure escape. As in Part 2, we make the correction proportional to our deficit from L4 Total Energy so that by the time we reach L4 we have that TE. By staying at smaller radii, or lower PE, we maintain higher KE, or positive overtaking speed. Obviously, you can play tunes with all these variables to vary trip time and fuel consumption. Note that the thrust lines are predominantly radially inwards and most of the fuel is burnt to change the eccentric orbit to a circular orbit, ie. L4's orbit. Forward thrust, along orbit, is relatively small and is thus cheaply available from a small change of thrust direction.

Arrival

The Fig 4 printout shows that at the end of stage 5, the body was 1404 km inside L4 with an overtaking speed (Delta V) of 13 km/hr. If allowed to coast now, it would perform a neat elliptical circuit of L4 as in the hypothetical scenario used in Part 2 to explain the monthly sine wave components; there happen to be no 3-monthly components from this particular starting point and TE. In the

L4 inset, we apply a control scheme, similar to Part 2, causing a slow spiral inwards, each circuit being one month. Freight consignments could be parked in circuit and brought in as required with a couple of deft squirts of thrust.

Fuel Consumption

The figures here are only a rough indication since they ignore the appreciable changes of mass. They are in fact an integration of the velocity changes for all firings, which are the same as the accelerations multiplied by burn durations. Accelerations should really be multiplied by ship mass (at that moment) to get thrust and hence fuel usage. At launch, we needed a horizontal velocity change of 3330 km/hr plus a considerable fuel burn to take off and provide vertical support until orbital speed was achieved. Stage 2 burn gave a velocity change of 2213 km/hr and stage 5 added another 2035 km/hr for a post-launch total of 4248. The 3 month spiral in to L4 only added 23 but a more rapid retrieval would use more. Note that the trip time to end of stage 5 was approaching two months (1154 hours).

The Program

Real programmers would have preferred lots of SUB programs, longer variable names, longer comments (your comments are these articles), one statement per line, the odd vacant line or string of dashes, etc. I hope that the less experienced will find it easier to see the whole picture with the one piece approach and easier to type into QBasic. The common code calculating accelerations, velocities and positions forms the backbone and the various stages are well handled by the SELECT CASE structure. I have had a lot of fun with this and writing the articles has led me to a more thorough development of a program written several years ago. The more you investigate a subject like this, the more things suggest themselves for investigation and better ways to do it keep thrusting themselves forward. You don't ever expect to be completely satisfied with a program you have finished with (for the moment). Nevertheless, I hope that copying these programs might entice more of our members towards this rewarding pastime. □

DEFDBL A-Z

```

pi = 3.14159: pi2 = pi * 2: conv = 180 / pi
SCREEN 12: WIDTH , 60: col = 15
emr = 81.3: em = 384235 'e/m mass ratio & distance
ce = em / (1 + emr): cm = em - ce 'e/centre/m dists
gce = 5.17234 * 10 ^ 12 'gravity const earth
gcm = gce / emr 'grav. const moon, 6.36204*10^10
gme = gce / em ^ 2 'moon accel. to earth
wm = SQR(gme / cm) 'moon angular velocity
xm = cm: ym = 0: xe = -ce: ye = 0 'moon/earth coords
a = 1.057785: ca = COS(a): sa = SIN(a) 'L4 lead angle
r4 = 381922.1 'L4 radius
v4 = wm * r4 'orbital velocity at L4 equilibrium
'note: distances L4 to earth and moon both equal em
'Total energy of body at L4 equilibrium is
enL4 = v4 * v4 / 2 - gce / em - gcm / em 'energy L4
pi = 3.14159: pi2 = pi * 2: conv = 180 / pi
CLS : WINDOW (310000, -15000)-(410000, 60000)
mp = 360 / (conv * wm) 'moon period, sidereal, hours
'Body launched at centre of moon face to earth
CIRCLE (cm, 0), 1738, col 'moon
x = cm -1740: y =100: u = 0: v = wm*x +7700: rd = x
ti = .0001: t = 0: angm = 0: stage = 1: miny = 99
LOCATE 2:PRINT" STAGE FUEL RADIUS ENERGY TIME"
LOCATE 4: PRINT " Start 0 "; FIX(rd)
LOCATE 44,60:PRINT "1": LOCATE 46, 50: PRINT "MOON"
FOR yy =-15000 TO 15000 STEP 150 'contour plot
FOR xx =323000 TO 390000 STEP 150 'contour plot
xe = xx + ce: de = SQR(yy * yy + xe * xe)
xm = cm - xx: dm = SQR(yy * yy + xm * xm)
IF dm > 12000 THEN 'not near moon
pe = (gce / de + gcm / dm) / 10 ^ 5 'PE deficit
PSET (xx, yy), pe MOD 16 'plot pixel
END IF
NEXT: NEXT
LINE (323000, -15000)-(390000, 15000), col, B'inset
DO 'main calculation loop
angm = t * wm: c = COS(angm): s = SIN(angm)
xm = cm * c: ym = cm * s: xe = -ce * c: ye = -ce * s
dmx = xm - x: dmy = ym - y 'body/moon separations
dm2 =dmx * dmx + dmy * dmy: dm = SQR(dm2) 'distance
gm = gcm / dm2 'acceleration towards moon
mx = gm * dmx / dm: my = gm * dmy / dm 'components
dex = xe - x: dey = ye - y 'body/earth separations
de2 =dex * dex + dey * dey: de = SQR(de2) 'distance
eg = gce / de2 'acceleration towards earth
ex = eg * dex / de: ey = eg * dey / de 'components
gx = ex + mx: gy = ey + my 'total body acc. comps
ang = ATN(y / x) 'orbit angle of body
IF x < 0 THEN ang = ang + pi 'put in right quadrant
IF x > 0 AND y < 0 THEN ang = ang + pi2 'ditto
at = ang - angm 'angle ahead of moon
IF at < 0 THEN at = at + pi2 'moon at 300-360 deg.
xt = rd * COS(at): yt =rd * SIN(at)'relative coords
PSET (xt, yt), col 'plot body relative position
SELECT CASE stage 'actions specific to each stage

```

...continued opposite

For The Bookshelf

Major Keary

Fireworks Bible

Macromedia's *Fireworks* package is a Web-specific graphics application that brings together under the one roof, so to speak, all the tools needed for the creation of Web graphics. From the time of the Web's first graphics-based browsers it was necessary to use multiple applications to achieve the best possible results; that has changed with the appearance of products such as *Fireworks*.

It combines vector drawing tools, pixel-based editing tools, live effects, HTML and Javascript output linked to graphics, and an export capability that optimises files to Web standards. *Fireworks 2* enables users to integrate different image types and objects, and has been written to integrate with other tools, particularly Photoshop-compatible plug-ins.

Designed for use by professionals, *Fireworks* is not a cheap product—which is understandable given the R&D investment in the creation of such a powerful and versatile application. Learning how to use something that can handle such a diverse range of graphics tasks requires users to invest their own time. Even though Macromedia's documentation is of a high standard, there is a need for additional information, something that *Fireworks 2 Bible* does exceptionally well.

The approach is largely tutorial, describing how to achieve particular tasks step-by-step. However, there is also very good descriptive coverage of topics such as managing colour. Anyone who has a print background will be familiar with the CMYK colour model, whereas the Web requires an RGB model.

The book carries a good explanation of the subject without resorting to high-end technical language. Fireworks has its own colour management system and the discussion is built around that with plenty of side notes and general explanatory material. For example, the difference between 24-bit depth (16,777,216 colours) and 32-bit depth is that an 8-bit gray scale is added; it works in much the same way as the addition of black (K) in the CYMK model.

Two chapters, *Understanding the Interface*, and *Customizing Your Environment*, are not just superficial lists of menu options, but offer in-depth explanations of what does what.

The coverage is comprehensive in every department. The book is both a reference for how to execute various tasks and an ongoing resource. The reader level is rated as beginning-to-advanced; 'beginner' means beginning Fireworks 2, not being a raw beginner at Web graphics. Anyone working with Web graphics at a professional level should consider this title for their graphics resources. Well written and information is easy to find.

The book comes with a Win/Mac companion CD that contains demo versions of *Fireworks 2*, *Dreamweaver 2*, and *Flash 4*; plug-ins from *Kai's PowerTools 5*; filters from *Alien Skin* and *Total Xaos*; Pantone's *ColorWeb Pro*; and a library of graphics, textures, and gradients.

Joseph Lowery: *Fireworks 2 Bible*
SBN 0-7645-3334-7

Published by IDG,

718 pp.,

RRP \$75.00



```

CASE 1      'partial orbit of moon after launch
IF yt < miny THEN 'stage 2 burn on far side of moon
LOCATE 6: PRINT " End 1 "; FIX(rd)
stage = 2: fuel = 0: ti = .001: col = 12' red plot
COLOR col: LOCATE 51, 63: PRINT "2"
accx = 1000: accy = 3000      'thrust components
acct = SQR(accx * accx + accy * accy)      'thrust
burn = 2800 * acct / (accx + accy): accti = acct * ti
'PRINT burn: DO: LOOP WHILE INKEY$ = ""
END IF
CASE 2 'far side burn
IF fuel < burn THEN      'during burn
gx = gx - accx: gy = gy - accy: fuel = fuel + accti
ELSE      'burn finished - start stage 3 coasting
LOCATE 8: PRINT " End 2 "; INT(fuel); FIX(rd)
stage = 3: ytc = 15000: col = 15
COLOR col: LOCATE 54, 55: PRINT "3"
END IF
CASE 3 'coasting (in inset)
IF yt > ytc THEN      'reached top of inset
en = FIX((u * u + v * v) / 2 - gce / de - gcm / dm)
LOCATE 10
PRINT " End 3 "; INT(fuel); FIX(rd); en; INT(t)
LOCATE 41, 74: PRINT "MOON"
stage=4: WINDOW(-400000, -200000)-(400000, 400000)
LINE(323000, -15000)-(390000, 15000), col, B'inset
s60 = SIN(60 / conv)      'for 60 deg. radial
CIRCLE (0,0), cm, 15 'moon orbit, white, & radial
LINE (150000, 300000 * s60)-(cm / 2, cm * s60), 15
CIRCLE (0,0), r4, 10 'orbit of L4, green, & radial
LINE(300000 * ca, 300000 * sa)-(r4 * ca, r4 * sa), 10
ti = .001: LOCATE 36, 71: PRINT "4"
LOCATE 22, 65 : PRINT "4"
END IF
CASE 4 'coasting (full screen)
PSET (x, y), col      'plot body absolute position
IF INT(t * 10) = 1080 THEN rdo = rd      '@ 108 hrs
IF t > 120 THEN      'go to stage 5 at 120 hours
en = FIX((u * u + v * v) / 2 - gce / de - gcm / dm) 'TE
LOCATE 16: PRINT " At L4 need "; FIX(r4); FIX(enL4)
LOCATE 12
PRINT " End 4 "; INT(fuel); FIX(rd); en; FIX(t)
stage = 5: it = 9: ti = .004: col = 12: COLOR col
LOCATE 22, 71: PRINT "5": LOCATE 6, 37: PRINT "5"
vr = .0357: va = .0004
END IF
CASE 5      'control approach to L4
IF angm < pi THEN PSET (x, y), col 'abs. position
IF INT(t / 12) > it THEN      'each 12 hours
it = INT(t / 12)
en = FIX((u * u + v * v) / 2 - gce / de - gcm / dm) 'TE
dvr = -vr * (rd - rdo)      'radial velocity adjust
dva = va * (enL4 - en)      'orbital velocity adjust
dv = SQR(dva * dva + dvr * dvr) 'total velocity adj
fuel = fuel + dv 'fuel used. Catch-up speed on L4
vo = FIX(v * COS(ang) - u * SIN(ang) - v4)

```

...continued next page

...from page 47

```
LOCATE 14:PRINT " 5      ";INT(fuel);FIX(rd);en;INT(t);vo;"Delta v"
vx = dvr * COS(ang) - dva * SIN(ang)          'x component
vy = dvr * SIN(ang) + dva * COS(ang)          'y component
u = u + vx: v = v + vy: rdo = rd
IF angm < pi THEN
  LINE (x, y)-STEP(vx * 100, vy * 100), 14      'thrustline
END IF
vxt = dvr * COS(at) - dva * SIN(at)           'xt component
vyt = dvr * SIN(at) + dva * COS(at)           'yt component
LINE (xt, yt)-STEP(vxt * 100, vyt * 100), 14    'thrustline
END IF
IF at > a THEN 'reaches L4 radial
  LOCATE 14:PRINT " End 5 ";INT(fuel);FIX(rd);en;INT(t);vo;"Delta v"
  stage = 6: fgr = .002: fga = .01
  ti = .05: col = 14: COLOR col
  LOCATE 20, 52: PRINT "L4": LOCATE 7, 61: PRINT "L4"
  LINE(r4 *ca- 2800, r4 *sa-2000)-(r4 *ca +2000, r4 *sa +2100), 10, B
  WINDOW (r4*ca-9000, r4 *sa - 7000)-(r4 * ca + 7000, r4 * sa + 5000)
  LINE ((r4 - 2000) * ca, (r4 - 2000) * sa)-(r4 * ca, r4 * sa), 10
  LINE (r4 * ca - 3000 * sa, r4 * sa + 3000 * ca)-...one line .....
  .....(r4 * ca + 2000 * sa, r4 * sa -2000 * ca), 10
  LINE (r4 *ca-2800, r4 *sa-2000)-(r4 *ca+2000, r4* sa + 2100), 10, B
END IF
CASE 6 'final settling on L4
  en = FIX((u * u + v * v) / 2 - gce / de - gcm / dm) 'total energy
  gr = -fgr * (rd - rdo) / ti 'radial control acc.
  ga = (enL4 - en) * fga 'orbital control acc.
  gt = SQR(ga * ga + gr * gr) 'total control acceleration
  fuel = fuel + gt * ti: rdo = rd 'fuel used
  LOCATE 18: PRINT " 6      "; INT(fuel); FIX(rd); en; INT(t)
  gx = gx + gr * COS(ang) - ga * SIN(ang)          'x component
  gy = gy + gr * SIN(ang) + ga * COS(ang)          'y component
CASE ELSE: EXIT DO
END SELECT
u = u + ti * gx: v = v + ti * gy'new vel. components
x = x + ti * u: y = y + ti * v 'new coordinates
rd2 = x * x + y * y: rd = SQR(rd2) 'new radius
t = t + ti 'increment time by time interval
IF INKEY$ <> "" THEN
  DO: k$ = INKEY$: LOOP WHILE k$ = ""
  IF k$ = CHR$(27) THEN EXIT DO
END IF
LOOP
```

END

**Check thousands of prices from
hundreds of companies**

PricePoint
www.pricepoint.com.au

<http://www.pricepoint.com.au/>

RoboCup Comes to Melbourne

Major Keary

RoboCup is an international event in which “teams” of legged robots play soccer. This year will see the annual competition in Melbourne at *Interact*, which will be held in conjunction with the PC show in August/September. It will be the first time RoboCup is staged outside the northern hemisphere. This item is written in the hope that your copy of *PC Update* arrives before the show opens.

Preliminary games will be staged at RMIT, and the finals will be played at the PC show. Check the RMIT and *Interact* web sites for dates:

<http://go.to/robocup2000> and
<http://www.robocup2k.rmit.edu.au/>

For information about RoboCup on the Web; try these sites as well as the ones above:

- <http://www.robocup.org>
- <http://www.artificialia.com/RoboCupJr/>
- <http://www.robocup.nl>

This is an abstract from www.robocup.org's site:

The Robot World Cup Initiative (RoboCup) is an attempt to foster AI and intelligent robotics research by providing a standard problem where a wide range of technologies can be integrated and examined. For this purpose, RoboCup chose to use a soccer game, and organized RoboCup. In order for a robot team to actually perform a soccer game, various technologies must be incorporated including:

*design principles of autonomous agents,
multi-agent collaboration,
strategy acquisition,
real-time reasoning,
robotics, and
sensor-fusion.*

The ultimate goal of the RoboCup project is, by 2050, to develop a team of fully autonomous humanoid robots that can win against the human world champion team in soccer. Alas, unless blessed with extraordinary longevity I won't be around to see that.

Of special significance is the RoboCup initiative on *Search and Rescue for Large Scale Disasters*. Details of a Simulation Project can be found at: <http://robomec.cs.kobe-u.ac.jp/robocup-rescue>

Robotic competitions have been around for a while. In 1992 the FIRST Robotics Competition was introduced. FIRST stands for *For Inspiration in Science and Technology*; its history and objects are described at www.usfirst.org. The robots are pretty big and have to perform some heavy duty tasks; for anyone involved in teaching secondary school science there is some interesting information about how robotics can be used in education.

Another competition, the *Botball* program, started in 1994. It was established by KIPR (KISS Institute for Practical Robotics); KISS stands for the familiar “keep it simple, stupid”.

The Botball program “challenges students to design, build, and program (in C) a small mobile robot to compete in a ... tournament that pits robot against robot in a game of skill, speed, and strategy ...”. □

Robots for Kids

Major Keary

Literature about robotics is largely confined to papers in professional journals, but a recently published text, *Robots for Kids*, makes a timely appearance with the staging of *RoboCup*.

Robots for Kids is not a children's book in the sense of having been designed for young children to read. It is written “for a broad audience, including HCI, AI, and robotics researchers in business and academia, new media and consumer product developers, robotics hobbyists, toy designers, teachers, and education

researchers”. That's a pretty broad audience, but anyone working—or with an interest—in any of those fields will find this book fascinating. It is an ideal entry point for those of us who have a limited understanding of robotics, and draws attention to the educational potential of robotics.

The book is in parts: *New Robot Technologies for Kids*, *Innovative Approaches to Using Robots for Education*, and *Future Visions*.

Each chapter follows academic format: abstract, introduction, the main

presentation, acknowledgments, references, and a *Kid's View*. Readers should not be put off by the formal layout; no special technical background is assumed.

This is not a DIY robotics manual. The focus is on what has been achieved in the application of robotics to education. Not automated education, of course, but the use of robotics to stimulate interest in a wide range of disciplines that are part of what is sometimes called the *hard sciences*.

RoboCup, *Botball*, and *KIPR* are

described along with some of the organised educational activities (such as RoboCamp) that have been established in America.

A valuable resource for educators who may be interested in the use of robotics as an educational tool. A high school teacher is quoted:

"Robotics motivates students to make plans, to accomplish, to look forward, to achieve and to feel good about themselves, in some cases for the first time in their lives. The robotics class itself is set up to allow students to feel comfortable with the new and

sometimes very complicated concepts that robotics brings with it. To build an autonomous robot, students must learn the basic concepts of mechanics, engineering and 'Interactive C' computer programming. They must also learn the skills of effective communication, teamwork and problem solving."

Druin and Hendler, eds.: *Robots for Kids*

ISBN 1-55860-597-5

Published by Morgan Kaufmann, 377 pp., RRP \$96.49 inc. GST □



A Little Polemic

Major Keary

On Protagonists

"When *I* use a word", Humpty Dumpty said in a rather scornful tone, "it means just what I choose it to mean — neither more nor less." [Lewis Carroll: *Through the Looking-Glass*]

I recently noticed in *PC Update* and some e-mail tags a resurgence in the use of *protagonist*, a word that, by dint of misuse (often by people who should know better), is employed to mean 'champion', 'advocate', or 'defender' as an opposite of 'antagonist'. Common misuse is no excuse, but can be explained.

The word comes from the Greek *πρωταγωνιστής*, which means the actor who takes the chief part in a play. In this case the *pro* at the beginning of the word is not the prefix that means 'for', 'on behalf of', or 'supporting' (a particular cause).

In fact the prefix is 'proto', which comes from the Greek (*πρῶτος*) for 'first'. In this case the final vowel (*o*) is dropped because the next letter (*a*) is also a vowel. *Proto* is the prefix found in words such as 'prototype'.

The second part, *agonist* may sound like 'antagonist' and is the root of the second part of that word (*ant(i)* being

a prefix). 'Agonist' is also the root of 'agonise', something that the protagonist in Greek plays does for much of his or her time on stage. Agonise also means 'contest' or 'struggle', and an agonist was a combatant (in classical Greek times principally in wrestling or some other competition). Hence the modern meaning of 'to struggle with oneself', or agonise. An antagonist, on the other hand, is one who struggles against, or opposes, something external.

The use of *protagonist* should be confined to matters of drama, along with *deuteragonist* and *tritagonist* (the second and third actors of importance, a piece of intelligence that might be useful in Trivial Pursuit or Scrabble). In spite of plays — especially of Shakespeare's day — that dealt with remarkable adventures of identical twins, there can be just one protagonist in any one drama — at least for the purists who find the plural form, *protagonists*, intolerable. The ultimate insult, of course, is to verbalise it: *she/he protagonised*.

Plain words are better. If one wants to refer to those who advocate a particular point of view or line of argument, then call them advocates.

One may well ask, what has that got to do with the price of digital eggs? The word processor is the most-used application by most computer users for creative work. That is, when not engaging in passively wandering about the Web. Word processors, unfortunately, give users a false sense of security. Spell checkers, grammar monitors, and so on are far from reliable tools for good writing. Computers have enabled, and encouraged, us to produce more words than ever before; but that is not a licence to take them (the words) for granted. It is important to develop a critical eye for style, the right use of words, and grammatical rules. By allowing meanings to be eroded or contaminated we make it all the more difficult to be precise. That may not seem to be of any importance, but remember that much of the High Court's (expensive) time is taken up with the meaning of words. □

East Timor Assistance

Member John Lunghusen is assisting some people in the task of gathering donated computers, printers and cassette players for an AID Agency to distribute to schools in East Timor. If you have working equipment sitting idle, e-mail John at jhnlung@melbpc.org.au.

Internet Access Application Form

Instructions

- Please **read** the entire form. It may be photocopied.
- Complete **every** field else it might be returned to you. Each field has a purpose, which includes updating our database.
- Enclose a cheque or authorise a charge against your credit card for the requisite amount. Send the form with payment to
Melbourne PC User Group
PO Box 283
South Melbourne VIC 3205

Description of Service

- **General.** The Melbourne PC User Group Inc A0003293V (Melb PC) Internet Service network (the Network) is a private telecommunications network owned and operated by Melb PC for its members. It is administered by the Internet Subcommittee (the Subcommittee) as a subscriber-funded service.
- **Function of the Melb PC Network.** The primary function of the Network is to support the free transfer of information to and from Melb PC members, subject to the terms of our Acceptable Use Policy.
- **Standard Service.** PPP accounts.
- **Features:**
 - Electronic Mail.
 - We also provide access to other services that are found on the Internet but they are not under our control.
- **Charges.** Annual fee \$140, subject to change from time to time.
- **Limits and Quotas.** Up to 120 minutes access per day (non-cumulative). A bank of modems is made available with a time limit of 30 minutes for the benefit of users who need to check their mail and get off quickly. The Mail quota is 4 MB. Excess mail may be deleted.
- **Access Software.** You will need to acquire and configure suitable software from our Shareware library or other resources.
- **Accounts.** Accounts are issued only to individuals, not company names. Melb PC may reject an application without stating a reason.
- **Support.** Volunteers offer their help in local newsgroups, via our free Bulletin Board Service, or by telephone.
- **Training.** Melb PC offers training courses.
- **Duration.** The subscription to the Network is for one year from the date of acceptance. It automatically terminates upon expiry of membership of Melb PC.
- **Acknowledgment.** Successful applicants will include individuals whose forms are correctly filled out and whose funds have been transferred to our bank account.
- **Net Etiquette.** Melb PC endorses adherence to ("net etiquette" or "netiquette") as deemed by the subcommittee from time to time.

Internet Access Agreement

Definitions

"Melb PC" means The Melbourne PC User Group Incorporated A0003293V or its assignee;

"the subscriber" means the Melb PC member making this application;

"family subscriber" refers to an existing Melb PC Family Member, or a member of the family residing at the same address who applies for Melb PC Family Membership at this same time, paying the additional \$10 Melb PC membership in addition to the Internet subscription;

"Internet access" means access to the World Wide Web, Internet e-mail and any additional Internet facilities Melb PC may offer to its members from time to time, but unless Melb PC agrees otherwise does not include supply or maintenance of the subscriber's equipment, software or telephone line, or technical support;

"subscription period" means the period in advance for which the subscriber has paid in full, being one of the periods of subscription offered by Melb PC from time to time;

1. The subscriber asks Melb PC to provide Internet access and Melb PC agrees to do so.
2. This agreement starts when an authorised officer of Melb PC has executed it and Melb PC has received cleared payment for the subscription period.
3. Subject to the early termination clauses of this agreement and to clause 4, this agreement continues until the end of the subscription period.
4. If Melb PC and the subscriber renew this agreement for a further subscription period, this agreement applies to the renewed subscription period unless the parties agree otherwise in writing.
5. The subscriber acknowledges that:
 - a. Continuity and speed of the Internet access depends on a wide range of factors, many of which are beyond the control of Melb PC;
 - b. Melb PC has no control over the accuracy or appropriateness of any information on the Internet;
 - c. Melb PC is not responsible for any material available on the Internet;
 - d. The subscriber's Internet access may be interrupted by equipment failure, the need for routine maintenance, peak demand and so on;
 - e. Melb PC cannot guarantee that the subscriber will be able to secure access at any given time, or that fluctuations in demand by other subscribers will not prevent the subscriber from using the full amount of the maximum daily time allowance on any given day.
6. Subject to matters of the kind referred to in the previous clause and to the subscriber's access limits, Melb PC will use its best endeavours to keep Internet access available continuously and to allow the subscriber to have access for the current daily time allowance from time to time.
7. The subscriber indemnifies Melb PC against any liability, claim, action, suit, demand, loss, cost or expense arising out of or in any way connected with this agreement or Internet access, including any negligence by Melb PC, its servants or agents.
8. The subscriber will pay fees according to Melb PC's standard pricing list from time to time, and a copy of the list certified by an officer of Melb PC is conclusive evidence of the prices applicable at any time.
9. Melb PC may make rules for the use by the subscriber of Internet access, including rules as to online time limits, transmission volume limits, excess usage fees, terms of payment and any other matter at all that Melb PC considers desirable, provided that there shall be no reduction in the access time of the subscriber during any period for which the subscriber has paid in advance unless the service provided by Melb PC has been or is to be enhanced so as to make up for any lost value. Melb PC may alter the rules on not less than fourteen days notice to the subscriber. A copy of the rules certified by an officer of Melb PC is conclusive evidence of the rules applicable at any time. The rules from time to time will apply as if they were set out in full as terms of this agreement.
10. The subscriber must not deliberately or recklessly do anything that damages Melb PC's equipment, software, setup or services.
11. The subscriber must not use Internet access to annoy, harass or harm other Internet users.
12. The subscriber must not use Internet access for any unlawful purpose or in any unlawful manner.
13. The subscriber will keep safe and confidential any access numbers, codes or passwords allotted to them by Melb PC and notify Melb PC without delay of any disclosure of those things.
14. Melb PC may terminate the subscriber's Internet access immediately if the subscriber breaches this agreement or the rules, or fails to promptly pay any money owed to Melb PC, or ceases to be a member of Melb PC.
15. Subject to the previous clause, either party may terminate this agreement by 14 days' notice to the other save that Melb PC must not terminate this agreement while the subscriber has credit for advance payment of fees without refunding a pro rata part of those fees or making alternative Internet access arrangements for the subscriber, and termination by the subscriber does not affect any debt owed to Melb PC at the time of termination.
16. Melb PC may delete without notice any material found on its storage disks that is unauthorised, unlawful, obscene, dangerous, excessive in volume, uncollected for an excessive period, or in an unauthorised place.

SIG Meeting Reports

Access

report by Craig Evans

At our last meeting we discussed:
A form wasn't showing all the records — the solution was to look at the properties of the query behind the form.

How to calculate totals in queries, forms and reports.

A report to list this month's invoices and the total of last month's invoices for any chosen Company.

How to format words to upper case, lower case etc using StrCnv().

A report to show a quantity of items and all serial numbers — the solution was to base the report on a temporary table.

For more solutions and amazing discoveries drop in to the Access SIG. All problems readily accepted. If you

are not completely satisfied with our solutions we will happily return your problems with a smile and no questions asked.

You will benefit most if you are currently working on a database — but don't let that deter you from coming along. Bring your database with you and we'll probably fix it on the spot. Remember: All the solutions are simple — some just take longer to figure out.

East Beginners' Group

report by Gary Taylor

What is a zipped file and how does one unzip it? What are LHA and TAR files? A demonstration of WinZip revealed all. WinZip has a support page on its site at <http://www.WinZip.com/xsupport.htm>. Once a file has been

successfully unZIPped remember to remove (or save to a floppy disk) the original ZIP file — saves space on your system. Having trouble sending heaps of small files via email? Try ZIPping them using WinZip, it can compress the files to sometimes a fraction of the original size.

What costs no money but a portion of one's download time and yet can give endless pleasure and satisfaction? Freebies and freeware (software). Many useful Internet sites were shown, especially those of the Melb PC SIGs, where assistance and FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) are available. By deciding to subscribe to a huge choice and range of Internet sites one can receive emails with the latest information, hints and tips, and links to other help sites. To subscribe is usually free and merely needs the seeker to

HOW TO LEARN FASTER AND EASIER

How to Learn Faster and Easier will change how you feel about learning for ever! It brings together the latest research in learning and natural health and combines this with a wealth of personal experience. Some of the topics include affirmations, bottom wiggles, energisers, junk food, magic tissues, vacuum breaths and zzz as well as the more "traditional" topics of computers, essay writing, learning styles, memory, spelling, stress, time management and lots, lots more!

... for all learners, from adolescent to adults... stimulates the reader to open up to new ideas for more effective learning. It's a "do something about it book!"

GREG WANN B.A. Dip. Ed. MACE Principal, Marsden High School.

"I found this book well researched and an excellent reference for students and teachers who are searching for more effective ways to learn"
EMMANUEL GABRIEL, B. Ed. TAFE Lecturer, 10 years.

Price only \$20.00 includes GST

Purchase your copy from:

Kickstart Help Centre

PO Box 732, BALGOWLAH, NSW, 2093

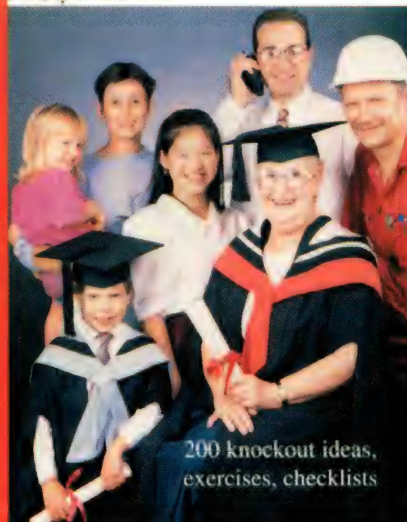
Cheque or Money Order payable to Deborah Braithwaite.

Phone: (02) 9949 1767 or 0413 862 852

HOW TO LEARN FASTER AND EASIER

#1 A-Z GUIDE

Deborah Joy Braithwaite



enter an e-mail address into the request form that is on the Web page in front of them. Those requesting a list of such sites were asked to leave their e-mail addresses with the Beginners' convenor (alchem@alphalink.com.au). We always learn heaps at the beginners group.

Daytime

report by Don Buchanan

At our July Meeting we started the morning with a very helpful session of questions and answers on many subjects including Viruses, Scanners, Real Player, Wire-less Mouse, Windows 98, BBS phone number, How to Associate a File; All provided useful discussion.

Thom Lyons gave a presentation on alternative operating systems such as Unix, Linux, BeOS.

Mention was made of Intel 4004 and 8008, Altair, Zilog, Texas Instruments, Commodore, Amiga, Tandy, Apple and so on as we were taken through the years towards the 80s and 90s.

Then using the alternative computer that sits at home in our big SIG room, Thom demonstrated how to use some of the programs that are available in up-to-date alternative operating systems such as Linux, including its ability to protect its major system on most occasions without a complete crash, if or when one of its programs gets into trouble.

BeOS was also given an airing, plus information about Red Hat Linux, along with mentioning various methods of acquiring these alternative programs. Thanks to Thom for a very interesting and informative morning.

East

report by Margaret Brown

It takes more than a cold Winter night to stop Melb PC members. Attendance at our July meeting was our best ever with over 160 members and guests, quite an advance from our first meeting in 1996 in a small office. After four upgrades it seems as if we may soon be looking for even larger premises.

George Skarbek opened the meeting with Q & As and gave everyone an update of Committee news.

Stewart Bedford began his presentation with the statement "If you haven't heard of DVD, or you haven't got one then you will and you will! They are the next main move in media storage, a convergence of everything we have been using up to date, video disks, data and music all in one."

Flexibility is greatly enhanced when viewing a DVD movie, choose from frame by frame, pause or screen capture, just some of the offerings available. With an ideal resolution selected the clarity of the image on the monitor is stunning. Winding and rewinding the tape is a thing of the past — book marking can instantly take you to one or many selected frames. Stewart demonstrated that in the unlikely event you wish to hear French dialog with simultaneous Arabic subtitles you can indeed choose to do so, the options offered varying from film to film.

The DVD files are encoded, not only to prevent their transfer to hard drive but also to limit them to particular geographical regions, presumably to restrict distribution or copying of the product. Writeable DVDs are presently way beyond the average budget but be prepared for dramatic price drops in the future.

IXLA Photoeasy.

Yin Tham demonstrated the features of the budget level Digital Camera Photoeasy from IXLA and offered those attending an even more attractive price. The technical specifications are modest but for many starting out with digital photography the results could well be perfectly adequate. Built in flash is available and images are downloaded to the PC, not stored on disk.

The software included offers adjustment and creative manipulation of images also indexing, e-mail and Web publishing features. <http://www.ixla.com.au>.

Slide Scanner

East now offers the use of a slide scanner to members. The cost is \$5.00 a week with the understanding that it will be collected from the previous user.

Future meeting topics include online share trading, CD burning, PaintShop Pro, computer housekeeping and data backup. Please log on to our Home Page to request e-mail notification of presentation dates.

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~mpceast/>

Many thanks to George Skarbek for his assistance with the Q & A segment and updates of Committee news.

East Workshop

report by Gary Taylor

Internet connection problems were again a predominant problem experienced by members. It pays to manually install all the settings and then to keep a record of them in a notebook for future reference.

"Who said that 486 computers were obsolete?"

There are still many old faithfuls who bring 486s for resurrection and upgrading. In response to all the requests for help with "obsolete" operating systems our gurus have made a CD-ROM containing such priceless gems as DOS and Windows for WorkGroups; this is for use in the Workshop only.

A Pentium 166 was sluggish and seemed to have a faulty hard drive. A thorough check using scandisk followed by defragmentation showed that the drive had many bad sectors and some programs still gave trouble. The drive was finally wiped and cleaned up and Win 98 installed after selecting partitions in the good zones on the drive. The computer really needs a new hard drive! The trend now is to buy removable drives that can be slid out of their caddy and replaced by other drives of one's own or from friends' computers.

Bought a new motherboard and case recently? Do they fit each other comfortably? Most likely not!

It all Happens at the SIGs. Attend a SIG soon.

Over recent months many members have found that tolerances and "standards" seem to have dropped, and the motherboards and cards seem to have projections or components that block access to the fixing- and card-slots.

Genealogy

report by Bruno Dik

In July we had an enlightening talk about how one can construct one's own Web site with the aim of gaining more information and feedback about family matters. Bruno's speaker for the session was unable to attend so suddenly he became the Speaker and the Beginner AND the Teacher AND the Expert! Interesting queries from the audience soon branched the Web Page Creation session into a "How to use search engines" and even more interesting goodies. Those in the audience forgot their fear of Web Page creation and cheerfully ignored everything about its genealogical queries and trivia poured forth.

More questions arose about the Intranet site that was formed for the Genealogy and Beginners' groups. It seems that members have forgotten to add it to their Bookmarks (Favorites). Here it is, <http://mpcgene.intranets.com/>. When asked for the registration code, type in "eastsig".

Now that we have a core group of members and the administrators have some "spare" time, there will be frequent postings on the Intranet page with details of useful Web sites, when and where meetings will be held in Melbourne, and "snippets from the raps". Don't forget your log-in password!

Apart from our meetings we now have more CD-ROMs to help with your research. Come along to the Eley Rd. venue before the meeting and browse the collection. Our latest CD-ROMs contain The new LDS Library File Index; this gives all the information regarding what is in the LDS Archives, and the associated index numbers.

These CD-ROMs cover the whole world. I typed in the name of the village where my grandfather was born and that gave me all the information the LDS have on that wondrous place, complete with the numbers required to get the film or microfiche for finding the information required.

Remember that we had the Pedigree Resource Files Numbers 1 to 5? Well, now we have Numbers 1 to 9 — and there is more on the horizon. Watch out for announcements on our Intranet.

OS/2

report by John Angelico

"Get NET-Working with OS/2 Series"

Previous instalments in this series have covered:

- Preparing a new Partition and Installing OS/2
- Fixpacks to keep OS/2 up to date
- Fit-Out: Software for Protection and Productivity.
- Applications Aplenty!

This month we launched an extension of our basic OS/2 series and called it "Get NETworking with OS/2".

Terry Kemp introduced 25 members plus guests to the potentially complex world of the "seven-layer ISO model for connectivity." He passed around the room samples of connectivity hardware (network interface cards alias "NICs", hubs, and cables — both coaxial cable and unshielded twisted pair [UTP Cat-5] similar to telephone cable) and outlined the essential processes required to get two computers talking intelligently to one another (in their own terms). Terry commented on WANs, LANs and home networks, and the difference between peer-to-peer and client-server networks. For a "thin ethernet" based network, he pointed out the importance of proper electrical properties, correct termination of a coaxial cable network, the proper connections for a UTP type cabling scheme (one crossover per computer connected to a hub), and the importance of ensuring that the cards

you select come with OS/2 drivers. Not all NE2000 cards are created equal; 3COM cards are well-regarded and have good support.

Discussion followed on the distinctions between Hubs, Switches and Routers and then Terry concluded the session with an outline of various protocols available for small PC networking.

In the next session we will continue on the OS/2 facilities for inter-connection at the network, transport and session layers of the ISO model.

A New Computer Expo

We welcomed to our meeting Greg Thomas who reported on his progress in organising a new computer show "ACE2000" — the Australian Connectivity Expo, scheduled for the weekend of October 21 – 22. A Web site was launched a few days after the meeting: have a look at <http://www.ace2k.net>. The Expo will feature less well-known systems such as Amiga, BeOS, Linux, our favourite OS/2 and Solaris, and Greg plans to have some very big names on show. Check it out in the Albert Park Pitstop Function Area.

After a break we introduced as our guest speaker Daryl Pilkington, past president of the South Australian OS/2 User Group. Highly qualified in PC and particularly OS/2 skills, he is now an independent consultant. Daryl reported on his attendance at the special WarpTech Expo in Phoenix Arizona and was able to bring us some snaps of the three days plus first-hand commentary on the sessions he attended. The atmosphere was exciting and augured well for the future of our favourite OS. Daryl covered: eComStation (due to be launched in mid-August by Serenity Systems www.serenity-systems.com), Project Odin, Desktop On Call, Java development trends (see <http://www.datarepresentations.com>), and the first-class labelling software package "Smack!" from Perfect Niche (<http://www.perfectniche.com>). His comments led to lively discussion and keen questions on technical aspects of OS/2 until we ran out of time. Next meeting 26 September. All welcome.

It's part of your Membership — Don't miss out!

Programming

Report by Ross Hall

The programming SIG meeting for July covered the usual diverse range of interesting tasks from the chaotic motion of a pendulum to card tricks.

Roger Wragg demonstrated some QuickBasic software that was written to plot the movement of a pendulum that becomes chaotic due to it having a forced oscillation. Roger provided photocopies of an example plot, the source code, and an extract from the physics textbook that inspired him to write it in the first place.

Andrew Radion has discovered the Cards32 library in Windows NT. Using this one has access to the same routines as used in the Windows Solitaire program. Andrew demonstrated how cards can be shuffled and also demonstrated a 21 card trick written using the same library.

Tobias Cohen brought along a couple of projects. First was a small mouse clicking game that remembered the highest score by storing results in the Windows registry. Next was a utility that was activated when the mouse cursor was moved to a corner of the screen. The utility had many functions including controlling sound, windows resolution, wallpaper etc. It also provided hotkeys that will launch Explorer, Find and check for mail.

Andrew Calloway gave an update on his phonetic language translator. Andrew showed his implementation of a binary search and the process of loading the 120,000 word dictionary. Also discussed was an "out of memory" error that kept occurring.

Meeting closed at 10.30 pm. Next meeting will be on Tuesday 12 September. Hope to see you there.

Retired & Interested Persons

report by Bill Cooney.

We saw more examples of the rich and diverse lives people lead as five "second timers" introduced themselves at our July meeting. One in particular moved, during his career, from being a PMG Technician, New Guinea patrol officer, policeman, police search and rescue — from which he retired as Officer in charge. What a wealth of experiences in such a life. There was also a kindergarten teacher who claims to have contacted a internet site on Mars! — an ex-pilot cum crash investigator, an ex-career RAAF officer (32 years) and a guy with a career at Channel9 TV behind him. All were warmly welcomed by Ken Thomas and the group.

A new screen was available for our guest speaker this month. George Skarbeck, our esteemed President and all round Oracle on matters in cyberspace, shared some of his wide knowledge about Microsoft Word. Thank you George, you really do have a grip on your subject and obviously practice what you teach.

Future speakers will include Ken Holmes with a talk about programming such things as Rubik's Cube et al, and a coming presentation about Astronomy and Computers. Ken mentioned the annual July gathering at Smorgy's. Thirty-nine people came — just one short of a free meal. Ah well. They raffled a couple to make up for the

shortfall and all present enjoyed the occasion. Leigh is looking for someone to look after the shareware normally on hand at our meetings and suggested setting up a library of homeless magazine CD-ROMs for the club. The idea has merit for they are a good source of free and shareware programs. I realised recently that for the price of an annual magazine subscription I could finance an ISP and get on to the Net! Why not?



The Ripper's slide scanner demand is falling off a bit so soon it will be available for longer periods than has been the rule since it was purchased. A request for a show of hands indicated that quite a few more people now are using digital cameras in the group and there is no doubt they are coming down in price, and they are even better than Polaroids for quick and handy records.

If readers feel the need for a friendly and knowledgeable group to share an interest in computing then Rippers SIS is the place to be. Come along on the next "fourth Friday" and check us out.

Video Editing "General"

report by Albert Vanzet

The invitation to attend our July meeting with the news that we would have as our speaker Mr. Rowan Humphrey, lecturer in Video Productions at RMIT's Creative Media Department, was accepted with an attendance of over eighty-five people. Some had brought their partners and others had come as a result of our presentation at the main monthly meeting in July at Pharmacy College.

**PETER MCGUIGAN'S
NOTEBOOKS GALORE**

**LARGE RANGE
UNBEATABLE PRICES**

30 Notebooks on display — 18 years trading integrity
Mail order a speciality — Delivered nation-wide

90 day Warranty and 30 day's money back Guarantee
on used Notebooks — Trade-ins accepted

Small, portable, Notebook Ink Jet Printers
Modems, Network Cards, SCSI, GSM, Hard Disks
Memory for Notebooks always available
(even for old models) and Carry Cases
External CD-ROM Drives

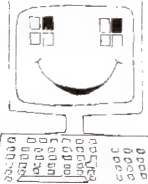
**NEW
USED
EX DEMO
SUPERSEDED
BUY
HIRE**

15 Brighton Rd.
St Kilda VIC
(opp. Town Hall)

Ph: (03) 9537 2233
Fax: (03) 9537 2266
lester@eisa.net.au

PC SUPPORT and TUITION SERVICES

- Personalised Computer Tuition, to suit your needs
- Computer Problems Solved
- Small Office Networking Solutions
- Ages 9 to 99 catered for



For PCs using:
DOS Windows 3.x Windows 95/98
* Discounts for Melb PC members *

Peter Selig
Phone (03) 9527-8805 Mobile 0419-335-221
e-mail: pfselig@melbpc.org.au

Rowan showed some highlights of a video about a lost money bag and planned robbery and used this video to explain the various actions and the video editing that was used to achieve the tension in the storey.

The evening continued with an award winning video by Merv Thomas, called "Villages of Provence". It was a lesson to be learned from an experienced videographer.

At the end of the meeting the convener told the meeting that he could no longer cope alone with the demands of running the expanding group. Volunteers to assist in running the SIG were desperately needed. He pointed out that a Special Interest Group can only exist because of its members who participate. A call went out to encourage some SIG members to each take on the task of planning, preparing and presenting a segment of the evenings programs.

Since then some long-time members of the group have come together to discuss the matter with the convener in an effort to restructure the management of the SIG, while several other members have pledged their support and participation. We expect that discussions with our members at the August meeting will further strengthen the team, create new initiatives and lighten the workload of the convener. If this works out, as we expect it will, the future and the success of our expanding SIG can be assured.

At our September meeting we plan to have a presentation by Melbourne's own video editing suite producer, Swann Systems. Their budget, non-linear digital video editing suite, FireWire VideoWorks, is a complete system that includes two editing programs. One program is designed for the beginner and the other, called MainActor, caters for the more advanced editor to professional level. All members and their partners are welcome to what promises to be a very interesting meeting.

Windows

report by Bob Mayston

Not only was there a full house but we were honoured with the visit of the Vice President and a committee member as the Windows SIG continues to gain new members.

As usual Lynn started the session with the Question and Answer segment. A member had a corrupted font folder and in Control Panel fonts it was impossible to add new fonts. The menu item was missing. Problem was solved by installing Tweak UI from the installation disk of Windows 98 (not 98 se). It is found under "Power Toys". Tweak UI amongst other useful functions, allows special folders such as the fonts folder to be repaired if they lose their "special properties".

Another problem is the: "...has performed an illegal operation" screen appearing as the machine hangs. Use system file checker from the tools accessories to check out. Another member had problems with a "run time error" message. This is generally due to a wrong version of VB Run file that has versions from 200 to 600. Try installing updates.

Another member wanted to have two installations of Windows on the one machine. A removable hard drive seemed to be the simple answer. A near flat CMOS battery could be responsible for erratic behaviour of another machine when closing down. Simple programs are available to "auto check" CMOS or save settings if the battery fails.

The main segment was to revisit some useful tips and tricks for Windows. Of current interest is a small program on the Microsoft site exclusively for Australia. It corrects the time clock daylight saving time settings to take account of the Olympic timetable.

The latest KAK virus problem was covered in detail. The concern here is you do NOT need to open a file for it to infect your Outlook Express mail reader. Visit the VET site to read the

background and then download the Microsoft Patch to protect yourself from this latest version of the "Bubble Boy" virus.

For the time being users of mail readers other than Outlook Express are safe but anytime the virus may be adapted to attack these readers. Generally virus writers attack the most popular programs.

We had a look where the Windows Registry stores five copies of the critical registry system and .DAT files and how to speed up start-up by disabling "fastfind".

The final segment demonstrated how to back up and save disks or disk partitions in compressed form using GHOST software. Quite large partitions can be stored in reasonable space on (say) a removable disk which can be later used to restore the original should you mess up an installation or whatever. It runs in DOS so Windows is not necessary. Ghost can also be used via the parallel ports to connect two computers. It runs with or without compression.

Next month the theme topic hopefully to be presented by one of our members will be scanners. In our quest for interesting presentations from members we had our first entry — a PowerPoint presentation on CD-ROM from Roswitha Aigner. This was a very good demonstration of the potential of both the author and the program. We will run the presentation again at the next meeting. So the challenge is on — "Who else has an

Interesting Windows based presentation to enter". The whisper is that there is a prize for the best presentation, so get your thinking caps on and make an entry.

Remember, get with the action at the Windows SIG on the First Monday of the Month in the club rooms at 7.00 pm. □

SIG stands for "Sharing Information Generously"

Shareware/Freeware Library Update

by Glenn Webster

Updates

MELB 0000 MELB PC SHAREWARE CATALOG Ver 4.9 and MEMBERS DISK Ver 5.2

This disk contains the details of all of the current disks in the Melbourne PC Users Group Shareware Library. Each disk is described in the same format that you see here. This format enables us to provide more details of each disk's contents than a single line entry. It also enables you to use a program such as LIST (provided on this disk), or WORDPAD, to search for a disk or a program, by name, by number, by category, or by content. A new catalog disk will be released several times each year, usually quarterly. The catalog will contain details of all current disks up to the issue of *PC Update* in which the new catalog has been announced. This disk includes other details which may be of interest to members. It describes the Melbourne PC Users Group, its rules, finances, special interest groups, member services, history, library, magazine and other features of the group. A number of useful utilities have been included with the disk. The catalog is supplied in a compressed form due to the size of the catalog files and it must be installed on a hard disk before use. All information is accessed by menus.

MELB 8439 GOLD WAVE FOR WINDOWS Ver 4.18

Gold Wave is a sound editor, player and recorder for Microsoft Windows. You can use it to make Web page sounds, answering machine messages, and

to record your own CDs (when used with CD writer software). Standard editing functions include undo, cut, copy, paste, trim, mix, and delete. Gold Wave uses intelligent editing that can automatically convert sampling rates, bits, and channels when copying and pasting to different file formats. It has independent left/right channel editing and viewing, a detailed zoom to magnify to a sub-sample level for accurate editing, vertical (amplitude) zooming and direct editing with the mouse. Standard effects include echo, volume, reverse, envelope shaping, panning, filters, resample, transpose, Doppler, dynamics, noise reduction, flange, parametric EQ, and time warp. Gold Wave has an intuitive interface and it is very easy to use. There is complete help on all commands. This version includes many new features and improvements. Gold Wave requires Microsoft Windows 9x/NT/2000, VGA graphics, a mouse and at least 4 MB of RAM. Registration is US\$30.

MELB 8847 RHYME FINDER RHYMING DICTIONARY Ver 4.0

Poetry takes two forms, Prose and Rhyming. This Windows-based program only deals with Rhyming Poetry. It enables a poetry writer to access a rhyming dictionary that contains over 100,000 single, double and triple rhymes for the 15 most used vowel sounds. These are organised by rhyme groups depending upon the related consonants that are used. It also contains detailed online Help files, including a brief tutor on rhyming poetry rules. Rhyme Finder does not rely on any special DLL files for its operation. This update includes revised rhyme files and new help screens. It requires an 80386 or faster processor, Microsoft Windows 3.1x or later, VGA graphics and a mouse. Registration is US\$10.

MELB 8940 WINDOWS COMMANDER (32-BIT) Ver 4.50

Windows Commander is a file manager replacement for Windows that is similar to the Windows file manager WINFILE.EXE. However, Windows Commander uses a different approach: it has two fixed windows, which makes copying, moving, renaming and deleting files (and entire trees) much easier. The built-in file viewer can be used to view files of ANY SIZE in hex, binary or text format, using either the ASCII (DOS) or the ANSI (Windows) character set. You can launch any Windows-based program, or format disks. Windows Commander supports all of the major archiver programs, and treats the archived files like sub-directories, enabling you to copy and delete files to and from the archives easily, without any messy command lines to worry about. The appropriate archiver program is called automatically. PKZIP, ARJ, LHA, RAR and UC2 are all supported. You can encode/decode files in UUE XXE and MIME format. Windows Commander has an enhanced search function with full text search (even inside archives), long filename support in Windows 95 and Windows NT (both 16- and 32-bit versions), drag and drop from and to the Explorer and the Desktop (32-bit version), a configurable button bar, a command line for starting programs with parameters and an FTP client to transfer files over the Internet. This version includes a multi-rename tool, enhanced FTP support, and direct cable connection through the parallel port. It requires Microsoft Windows 95 or later and a mouse. Registration is US\$32. A 16-bit version of Windows Commander is available on disk MELB 8282.

SHAREWARE DEFINITION

Any program described here and in the catalog as "Public Domain" or "Freeware" does not require registration. However, most of the programs described are neither Public Domain nor Freeware, but are distributed by the Shareware method. This means that if you continue to use the program after a reasonable trial period (usually one month), you should register the program. We show the registration fee when it is known, but the absence of a fee does not mean that the programs are free. Shareware authors are entitled to be paid for their work.

Shareware is a distribution method, not a type of software.

A Note About "NOTEnnnn.TXT" Files

Program authors sometimes assume that everyone who uses their software instinctively knows how to install it and use it. We do not assume such knowledge, and we go to some

lengths to provide shareware programs in a ready-to-run (uncompressed) form, where possible. In all cases we provide instructions on how to install and use the programs we supply from the Shareware Library. These instructions are contained in a file called NOTEnnnn.TXT (where nnnn is the disk number). We trust that you find these files are useful, particularly if you are new to computing and the shareware method of distribution.

DISK COPYING CHARGES

First disk (in an order)	\$5.00
Second disk (in the same order)	\$4.00
Third and subsequent disks (in the same order)	\$3.00

Postage and Packing are included in these charges. Please note that these charges do not include GST (Goods and Services Tax).

The charges shown above are COPYING CHARGES. They do NOT include any registration fee which may be required by the copyright owners or program authors.

DISCLAIMER

The programs available through the library are provided "AS IS" without warranty of any kind, either express or implied, including, but not limited to, the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. In no event shall Melb PC or any of its members be liable for any damages whatsoever including direct, indirect, incidental, consequential, loss of business profits or special damages, even if Melb PC has been advised of the possibility of such damages.

Good data processing procedure dictates that any program is thoroughly tested with non-critical data before relying on it. You must assume the entire risk of using the program.

MELB 9256 IRFANVIEW (32-BIT) Ver 3.20

IrfanView is a fast image viewer and converter for the Windows 9x/NT/2000 operating systems. It contains many features common to most image viewers, but it also has batch conversion and a built-in slideshow function. The list of supported file formats is extensive, but the formats MPG/MPEG, AVI, PSD, ICO, CUR and JPG/JPEG are some of the formats that it provides support for, without plugins. IrfanView can read the following Apple QuickTime formats via a plugin: MOV, QTIF, Mac PICT, FLI/FLC. The author can supply Plugins that extend the functionality of the program. This version provides support for more file formats including improved support for the PhotoCD format, an improved capture option, a resizable main window and new viewing options, tooltips for thumbnail images, new command line options, and as many other extra features. IrfanView requires Microsoft Windows 95 or later, 8 MB of RAM and VGA or better graphics. IrfanView is freeware.

MELB 9439-9440 COPERNIC 2000 Ver 4.55 (2 Disk Set)

Copernic 2000 finds exactly what you're looking for by simultaneously consulting the best Internet search engines. It uses more than thirty information sources. It also features online shopping search categories for hardware and software, with more than twenty engines available. Copernic 2000 enables you to search for English, French, German, Italian or Spanish content. With Copernic 2000 your searches will be easier, faster and more efficient than ever. The software has many features such as a search creation wizard, a detailed search history (so that you can find past search results quickly), automatic software updating via the Internet and many advanced search management functions. You can generate search reports in Web page format, which you can use to browse results, remove duplicate matches, and eliminate all invalid document links. Copernic 2000 offers a flexible, user-friendly interface. Documentation, including context sensitive help, is available while running. This version offers a new translation service for search results and is available in five additional languages. Copernic 2000 requires Microsoft Windows 95 or later, a web browser, an 80486DX or faster processor, 8 MB of RAM and 5 MB of hard disk space. Freeware.

MELB 9512-9514 TIME & CHAOS Ver 5.3.8 (3 Disk Set)

Time & Chaos helps you to organise and manage your time commitments and to minimise the chaos that is sometimes involved. It brings order to the three most common types of time-dependent information: things you need to do (to-do); appointments you need to keep; and contacts you want to make on a regular basis; all on a single screen. You can assign colour-coded icons to categorise or prioritise appointments, append notes or repeat an appointment at regular intervals, link an appointment to a contact record, and set an alarm to alert you of an upcoming appointment. Time & Chaos will help you to write letters and print envelopes, dial the phone, even schedule a meeting of several other busy people. Its alarm clock will give you plenty of time to prepare for an appointment, and instantly remind you who it's with. You can print activity reports for any period, and export the data to a file for use by other applications. Two Phone Books provide easy access to all of your contacts and enable you to

keep separate files of personal and business contacts, frequent or irregular contacts, or any other division you may wish. This version provides an upgraded spellcheck, wallpaper support, custom font selection on main screen, advanced sort options on search and report, new options on TimeLine, support for Word 2000 and WordPerfect 2000. Time and Chaos requires Microsoft Windows 95 or later. Registration is US\$45. This program has been re-issued as a three-disk set due to an increase in size. Accordingly, disk MELB 8212 has been deleted.

New Disks

MELB 2664 FDATE Ver 9.6A

Fdate is a utility for doing date formatting and date arithmetic in DOS batch files. There are a number of different ways to put FDATE's output into environment variables. Once this has been done, the environment variables can be used and manipulated in many ways in the batch file. Some of the things you can do with FDATE include, accepting user input from the keyboard, retrieve today's date in a variety of formats, place today's date into a file name, reformat dates (various formats, including weekday names can be produced in several languages), do date arithmetic (such as determine the date N days before/after a given date, compare two dates to determine which is earlier and compare two dates to determine how many days apart they are), and determine if a year is a leap year. You can determine what day of the week a date falls on, and run certain software only on certain days of the week. Fdate can retrieve the date/time from the date/timestamp of a file, do simple integer arithmetic (add, subtract, and modulus), calculate the time a piece of software takes to run, extract a substring from an environment variable, and, right-, left-, or center-justify a string. The program includes extensive documentation with examples of use. FDATE is freeware.

MELB 2665 PASSWORDS BY MASK Ver 1.2

Passwords by Mask has been designed to generate passwords of any character content. It is small and easy to use. It could be useful to network administrators, and others where there is a need to generate and administer passwords. Passwords by Mask provides you with the ability to choose the type of password symbols used. You can select the password symbols to be random or specified alphabetic, random or specified numeric, random or specified alphanumeric, random or specified special or random or specified all keyboard characters. This feature enables you to generate a random User ID and Password at the same time. Passwords by Mask can use the Windows clipboard to transfer passwords between programs and applications. The program requires a processor running Microsoft Windows 95/98/NT.

MELB 2666 TRAYTOOL Ver 1.02

TrayTool is a System Tray enhancement for Windows 95/98. It provides single-click access to all of your desktop icons and it enables you to switch between multiple virtual desktops. TrayTool includes a RAM Optimiser. Other features include fast keyboard access to the TrayTool Menu and a Free Ram viewing option on the Taskbar.

MELB 9515 CLONECD Ver 3.5.6.2

CloneCD is a powerful CD-ROM copying program or CD-ROM replicator. It was not designed for use as CD-ROM mastering. This simplifies the use of the program. If you have the correct equipment, you should be able to use CloneCD to create working, safety backups of (almost) every PC CD-ROM, even those which are copy protected. CloneCD writes in Raw mode, which provides the program with total control of the data written. For this reason, CloneCD will produce real one-to-one copies of your CD-ROMs. Because of its special operation, CloneCD requires a CD-Writer which is capable of writing in this mode. Only a few CD-Writers support this. The program also requires a CD-Reader which supports some specific commands. Documentation within the program describes some of the CD-Readers and CD-Writers which are known to work (or not work) with CloneCD. CloneCD can create working safety backups of CD-Extra multimedia enhanced Audio CDs. It is easy to use; you only need a few clicks to make backups from your CDs, and the program includes extensive online help. CloneCD requires Microsoft Windows 95/98/NT4/2000 running on a Pentium 133, or faster processor, with 32 MB of RAM. CloneCD requires selected equipment due to the way it works. The major problem might be finding a CD-ROM that can read Subchannel Data from Data Tracks. You will need a CD-ROM that is capable of reading hidden information (Subchannel Data) from Data Tracks in order to read copy protected data disks. You must try your combination of equipment before you register the program. With this shareware version writing will always be done with 2x write speed, but writing simulation can be done with any speed. Your settings and window positions will not be saved. Registration is US\$49 (and you must have a working e-mail address before you can register).

MELB 9516-9517 DISK INSPECTOR Ver 1.5 (2 Disk Set)

Disk Inspector is an easy-to-use tool with an Explorer-like interface that you can use to catalog the drives on your personal computer. The program provides two view modes; an (ordinary) folder-tree and a categories tree. You can add comments to any object (file, folder or volume), and import descriptions from common description files such as FILE_ID.DIZ, FILES.BBS, and DESCRIPT.ION. You can extract titles and information from HTML files, MP3 sound files and some graphics (BMP, GIF, TGA, JPG, WMF, PCX, CEL, FL?). Disk Inspector can analyse thirteen archive file types (ZIP, ARJ, RAR, HA, LZH, ICE, CAB, TAR, ARC, PAK, ZOO, ACE and JAR). This means that you can search for files in archives. You can also search for files and folders using filename (with wildcards), filedate and comments. Files in archives can be extracted from RAR and ZIP archives without using external programs. Other features of this program include the ability to add thumbnail pictures to your catalog, to copy and move files, to update volume information (saving comments and categories), and to generate reports. Disk Inspector has an internal viewer for graphics files. It requires Microsoft Windows 95/98. Registration is US\$20. □

Random Access

Questions and Answers from the Monthly Meeting

Q: From Barry Reid. I am running Windows 3.1 under MS DOS 6.22 on a 486DX-2 66 MHz machine and I have successfully installed a Panasonic LS-120 drive, model LKM-923-1. This is to be used mainly for backup purposes. In Windows applications (including Visual Basic) and in DOS programs written in PowerBASIC, COPYing, LOADing and SAVEing files leads to a variety of error messages indicating a lack of success in locating or reading the files on the LS-120 drive. RETRYing temporarily corrects the problem. The problem does not seem to occur in DOS command line functions such as TREE, COPY etc. How can I overcome this problem?

A: From Barry Martin. For the LS-120 to work correctly under DOS/Windows 3.1, it should be connected to a separate dedicated, proprietary controller card. You also need the latest drivers which can be downloaded from www.superdrive.com — the filename is IDEKIT1.EXE and it is 789KB.

Q: I use Windows 98 and want to find the character sets to type in foreign languages especially German.

A: They are not standard on the CD-ROM. You need to download them from the Microsoft site. You also need to have the correct settings for the keyboard and code page.

Q: I am trying to compare Drive Image and Drive Copy. Can anyone give me advice?

A: They are products designed for different purposes. Drive Copy is used to copy a partition or a whole drive from one drive to another. Drive Copy can copy to a removable hard disk so it can be used on another PC. Drive Image takes an image of a partition or a drive, compresses it, and stores it on another drive. It is used for disaster recovery or for rolling out a standard configuration to a number of PCs. [Ed: Drive Image has similar functions to Norton Ghost which readers may be more familiar with — JS]

Q: I have Windows 98 SE, which came with McAfee AntiVirus built in. About once per week it invites me to update my files. When I click the update button it says it is going to the nearest update site then it times out and asks if I want to retry. I have never succeeded in getting through. How can I do it?

A: McAfee VirusScan would not have come with Windows 98 SE. You must have obtained it with another package. Go to the McAfee site directly and download the upgrade. You will need to have your proxy settings correct.

Q: My daughter bought a second hand P100 with Windows 98 last year. It has been operating well until recently when Windows decided to show the 3.5 inch drive as 5.25 inch. I tried to set it in BIOS but it is password protected and we don't know the password.

A: You can remove the battery or you may find a set of jumpers that can be shorted out to reset the BIOS back to its default. The default is no password and for an old BIOS it was also a 5.25 inch drive. The battery going flat may be the cause of the problem, in which case you will need to replace it.

Q: When I run Word from Office 97, I only have 200 MB left on my hard disk and it crashes all the time. What house-keeping do I need to get the disk back in order?

A: If Windows manages virtual memory it will show the disk area as being free. If you only have 200 MB left, Windows will grab a large amount for a swap file and then more for your documents. First free up disk space by deleting all files of the format ~*,* and *.tmp and then do a Scandisk and Defrag. Then set up the swap file manually to about twice the size of your real memory. If you are using Outlook Express, compact all the folders. For Outlook, check the Archive.pst for unwanted files. [Ed: Agent also has an option to compact databases and other mail programs probably do too — JS]



John Swale

Q: My PC freezes since installing Norton System Works 2000. When I run Scandisk it reports incorrect file sizes.

A: System freezes can be many things. Background jobs can start and hog resources. Programs can be accessing the same memory. You really need to run diagnostics to determine the cause. The first step is to try uninstalling System Works and see if that fixes the problem.

Unanswered Questions

From Peter Neale: I have an "old" notebook computer. It was originally bought new by the company I work for, but is no longer required by them. I am trying to set it up to help a basic learner. As acquired by me the hard disk was empty and unformatted. The computer is a KTX Model No. NBE Type 750C/486DX2-66. It has 8 MB RAM and I am pretty sure the disk is 516 MB. It has a Phoenix BIOS Version 1.03. The Phoenix Setup Utility auto-detects the disk as 1050 cylinders 16 heads 63 sectors 516 Megabytes. However when I formatted the disk with MS-DOS 6.22 it only formatted as 12 MB. When I went into FDISK and either displayed partition information or attempted to create a new partition it showed that there was no unpartitioned or unformatted space available. How can I make DOS recognise that the disk is actually much larger?

From Ian McDowell: Is it possible to get a Windows printer (in this case, a Canon LBP-460) to print from a DOS program outside Windows? □

Letters to the Editor

I was interested in your comments about the University of the Third Age in the August PC Update. Here in Croydon our U3A has over 500 members and provide 65 classes each week including computer and Internet classes. The local Swinburne College of TAFE provides us with the free use of a computer lab with 25 computers for a whole day each week. They have a permanent connection to the Internet. At present we have 60 members attending computer classes. Classes are organised for beginners and intermediate level students. It is our contribution to helping our members become literate in the new technology that can easily overwhelm.

John Sapsford.

Random Access — Over to You

Please contact me if you have any comments on the answers given; can provide a reply for the unanswered questions; or if you cannot attend the monthly meeting and would like a question asked and included in this column.

To contact me: write to me care of the office; leave a message on the BBS or telephone me on (03) 9857 5567 AH or e-mail me at jswale@melbpc.org.au

Note: Please contact commercial distributors before asking a question here. In all cases mention version numbers.

Members Free Ad

Wanted
HP97 Calculators with working card readers and printers.
Horst Sieker
Ph: 9555 0671 (BH)
Fax: 9555 6589

Dear George and Ash. Thank you for yet another issue of PC Update. As usual I turn over every page I read every page that I can understand. I ponder enviously about the readers who can understand so many other pages.

I cut out carefully all articles such as The Lagrange Points, they will be buried with me (life expectancy 8.32 years), so that I will be able to make sense of them when I come again.

For the time being, I was delighted to see HINTS AND TIPS, (thanks George) and ENTRY LEVEL QUESTIONS ANSWERED, SUDDENLY OUT OF THE BLUE. These I CAN read, understand and make use of. Excellent idea keep it up!

You are looking for more members — make sure that you are catering for beginners (any age). An excellent, sophisticated journal can be discouraging to a new starter. Confused by the difference between Task Bar and Tool Bar one could end-up sequin solace in a Liquor Bar. Keep up the good work. Kind regards and very best wishes

Jack Zagorski

“... and I can't let the occasion pass without praising the July issue of PC Update. Absolutely outstanding in form and especially content. My copy went straight into the Billiard Room and is now among my special *reference works*. Well done.

With thanks.

Bill Cooney”

Members Free Ad

Wanted
Visual Basic v4.0 Professional Edition. With or without manuals.
Will provide a good, caring home.
Barry 9560 9431

Firstly I complement you on July PC Update, and all the others.

Usually I just glance through them but this one had a lot of technical info. about some of the things for which I had been having trouble finding what I needed to know.

I found that I could understand what they were talking about. It is amazing just to go into a PC shop and ask about USB and SCSI to see the blank look that you get. It is all very well to have revues about expensive software which is mainly of interest to office workers, etc. The interests and values of our members are very mixed. I have been a member for just over a year and have learned many things.

Next I have been meaning to ask that you include on the monthly meeting map some extra information.

Catch tram number 19 in Elizabeth St. and get off at stop 16 (Walker St.) As I come by tram I am sure that it would help other new members.

John McNabb

Members Free Ads

Wanted

Would anyone care to sell me a stand alone copy of Access97? Have Word97 and Excel97 and need Access to complete the trio.

Trish Thomson 0427 769 616
e-mail trisht@mansfield.net.au.

Wanted

Cisco Router

Student requires router for IOS configuration practice. Suitable models include series 800, 1600, 2500, 2600 and others.

Damaged units considered if can access console.

Raoul raoul@melbpc.org.au
9558 4692

Dial Help Rules

The volunteer members listed on the reverse side of your mailer (*who are not necessarily experts*) provide phone assistance to other members FREE of charge. Dial Help is not free advertising for individuals who charge for their services; please advise the President directly of any such abuse.

Please, before ringing a Dial Help volunteer:

- Ring the vendor's support line and/or your corporate help desk.
- Read the manuals and have them handy.
- Turn on your computer and have your software running if possible.
- Be able to reproduce your problem.

- Have your phone beside the computer.

Keep all calls short, particularly business hours calls. If the volunteer is not available do not expect someone else to solve your problem, ring again later.

For topics not covered on you mailer or if you are unsure whom to call, ring The Dial Help First Aid Line: **9696 9200** (10.00 am–3.00 pm). A volunteer will assist you and suggest further contacts.

If you wish to help, or if you know of errors in the list, please advise the Production Manager ph: 97001566, e-mail prod-mgr@melbpc.org.au, or advise the Melb PC Office by phone, fax or e-mail — details on page 2.

Please do not leave messages on the BBS. Use phone, fax or e-mail instead.

Please keep calls within the hours indicated, and avoid ringing Dial Help volunteers on weekends. Above all, courtesy counts. For instance, please don't expect a volunteer to call you back on a mobile phone.

Day means

9.00 am – 5.00 pm

Evening means

6.30 pm – 9.00 pm

PC Update Themes and Deadlines for the balance of year 2000

October
Windows 2000
Deadline 29 August

November
Business Applications
Deadline 18 September

Dec-Jan
Christmas Special
Deadline 31 October

Please plan your writing activity.

Members' Free Ads

Small advertisements from members, for Swap, Wanted, For Sale, Free, etc., are run free of charge. Advertisements can be submitted either by: delivery to the Group's Office as an ASCII file on a non-returnable MS-DOS diskette (any size), or e-mail to prod-mgr@melbpc.org.au

Be sure to include your name, phone number and other contact details.

Ads will be included in the first available issue.



How to Start and Produce a Magazine or Newsletter

The Third Edition of How to Start and Produce a Magazine is now out. The "trade secrets" of printing and publishing in one handy volume. \$35 (\$38.50 inc GST) less 10% and free postage for Melb PC members.

Also available: **PUBLISH YOUR BOOK**
HAVE A GARAGE SALE AND MAKE SOME MONEY
NEWSPAPER PRODUCTION USING PAGEMAKER 6.5 (Ask for free leaflet)

"Format" is our free monthly email newsletter of interest to anyone producing newsletters, magazines, newspapers, or any formatted publication. Back issues are at: www.worsleypress.com/format/

Worsley Press, 11 Lintel Court, Hastings 3915
Freecall **1800 622 805** email info@worsleypress.com
The publication production website: **www.worsleypress.com**

Acknowledgments

Melbourne PC User Group gratefully acknowledges the support provided by the following organisations:

American Power Conversion for the supply of six uninterruptible power supplies for the Group's Communications Centre.

Michaels Camera & Video for a Kodak DC20 Digital Camera.

Microsoft Australia for many years of contributions and support.

SONY Australia for the supply of equipment used in the production of PC Update.

Symantec Australia for many years of contributions and support.

Melbourne PC User Group Inc.

MONTHLY MEETING DETAILS

All members and guests welcome: Pharmacy College, 381 Royal Parade, Parkville. 6:00 pm

Next meeting 6.00 pm, Wednesday 6 September 2000

The Others

The other operating systems complain that big "W" has snagged all the attention, leaving them feeling lonely and neglected. Well feel lonely no more — here is your 30 minutes of fame! Linux got a look-in earlier this year, now it's the turn of OS/2 and BeOS, presented by *John Angelico*

DOWNs and UPS

If you make a living with your computers, an Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) is essential. But what do they do? What can't they do? Australia's leading expert on the systems, *Peter Grant* from Sola, will talk on "Don't have the downs with a UPS".

Leave Your Own Web

Everything you wanted to know about the world's leading Web page builder. Microsoft people are coming out in force to show us the newest Tips & Tricks with FrontPage.

Plus of course there will be Barry Martin's Random Access to answer your questions, and thousands of dollars in gifts and prizes. Join the hundreds who have a night of fun and information at the September Monthly Meeting.

Do you have a product that would interest our members?

At least 250 members and guests and sometimes many more dependent upon the topic of the night, attend our monthly meetings. These meetings provide an excellent forum for the introduction and release of new products to those who are both users and decision-makers.

Meetings are arranged around planned themes. Members or presenters who are able to assist or contribute are invited to contact the convener, **Brian Horman**, via the office, on 9699 6222



First Wednesday each Month

Advertisers Index

Bayside PC Services	41	Paradigm Software	19	SirraSoft	24
Kickstart Help Centre	53	Peter Selig	56	Technology	
Northern Melbourne		Pollock Computer and		Supermarkets Pty Ltd	29
Institute of TAFE	39	Technical Services	17	TECS	6
Notebooks Galore	56	PricePoint Company Pty Ltd ...	21	Worsley Press	19, 62
Pagination Design		RELAXO Australia Pty Ltd	26		
Services	64				

Your PC file output and communication problems are our business



We specialise in the output of PC (and ok, if you insist . . . MAC) files to film and bromides for offset or screen printing.

With years of experience dealing with PageMaker, Illustrator, Quark, Corel and PDF files we can quickly and economically impose and output your files with the minimum of fuss.

Pagination Design Services

Computer graphics bureau, pre-press production, print management and marketing, web design and development.

www.pagination.com.au

Telephone 03 5223 2494